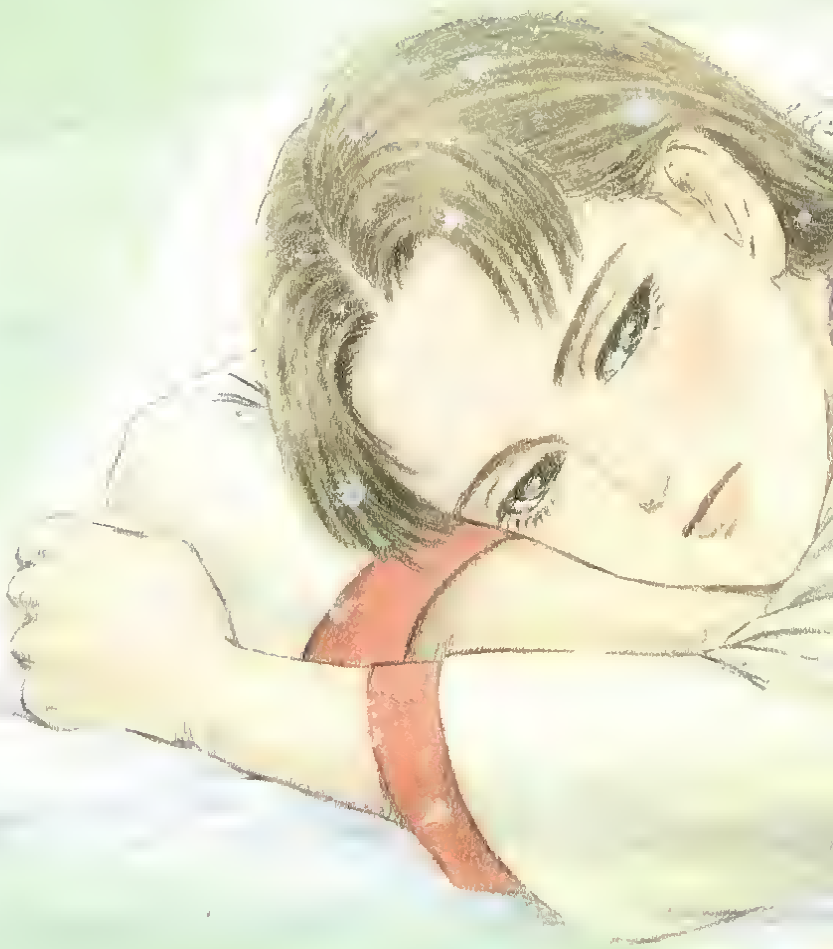
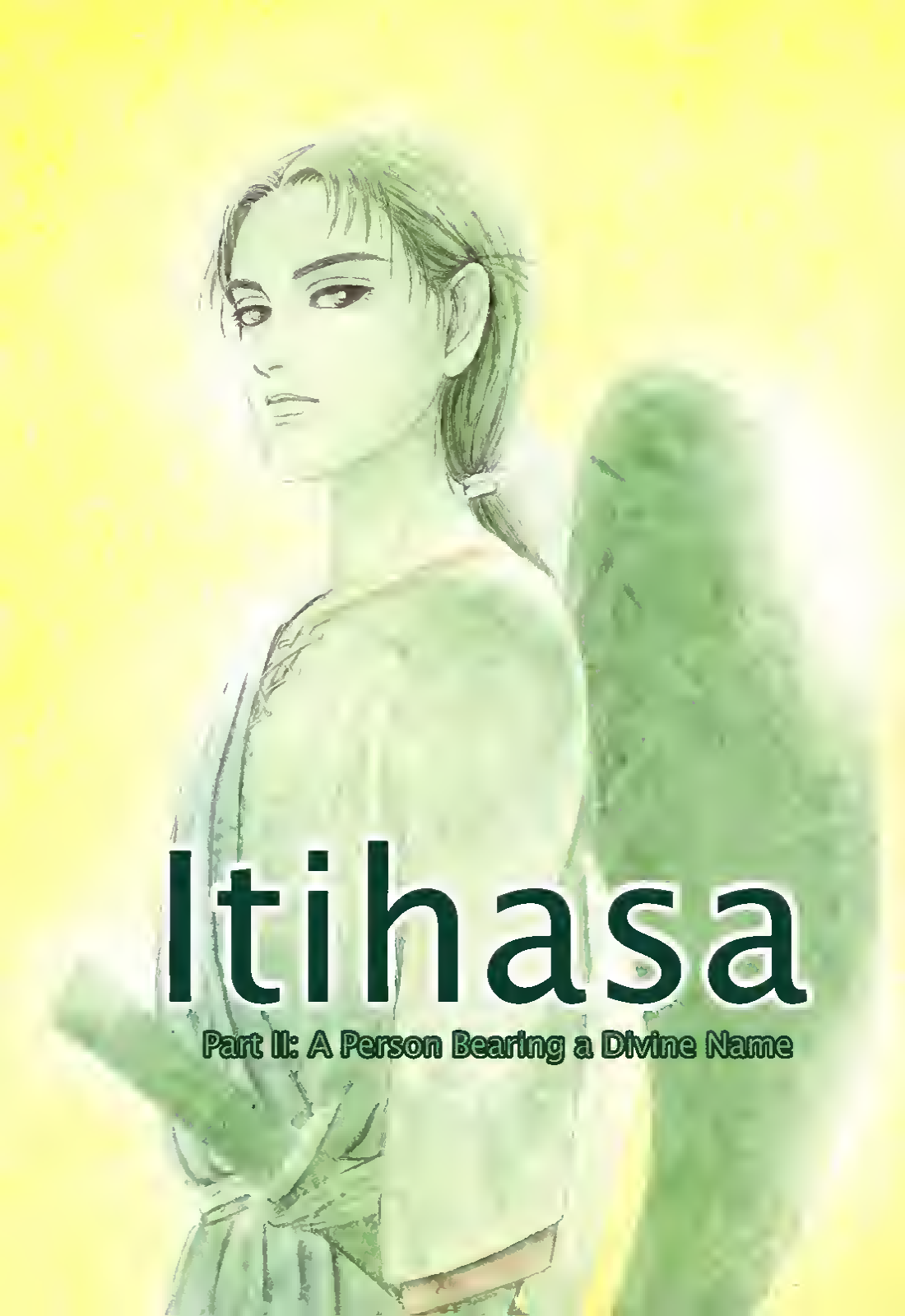
Itihasa 6

Wakako Mizuki





Itihasa

Part II: A Person Bearing a Divine Name

Recap & Main Characters

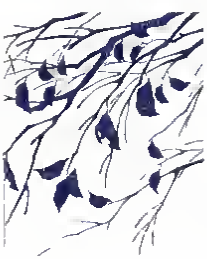
her life force to him. As a result, Toko herself is left in a serious condition. As she hovers between life and death, another Toko (!?) appears and guides her toward life. The other Toko tells her that they are destined to kill each other if they meet again...
Katsura falls in love with Aohiko. However, conscious of the dark fate that will swallow him up in a few years' time, Aohiko is unable to accept her feelings. On hearing this, Katsura privately vows to hide her feelings and protect Aohiko for as long as she lives.
One day, over seven years later, a hermit named Misen looks into Toko's past. Toko learns she has a twin who was kidnapped as a child and turned into one of Kiyu's warriors... Takaya is kind as ever to Toko in her state of shock, unaware that she has come to love him as more than just a brother. One day, shaken by the appearance of a woman named Kiriko, Toko confesses her feelings to Takaya, creating a rift between the two. However, when Kiriko dies of an illness, Toko resolves to make a fresh start as Takaya's little sister.

Part II

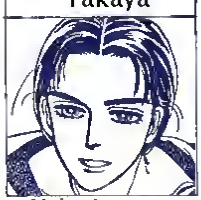
While Toko and Takaya are away from the demigod camp, it is completely surrounded by demon-god warriors. Takaya leaves Toko out of harm's way and enters the battle. Meanwhile, Koma and the youth group attempt to escape. However, demon-god warriors, including Toko's twin Yoko, lie in wait for them. Toko arrives on the scene as if called there by Yoko and is run through by a crazed Yoko's spear. When Yoko sees Takaya receive apparently fatal wounds in the battle, she faints. Yoko starts recalling memories that can't be hers and becomes convinced that she is Toko...

Toko (Yoko)

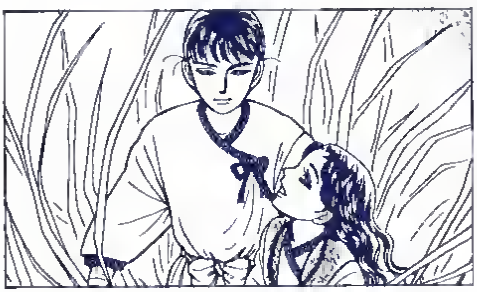
After arriving in Isana, Aohiko learns that his friends have all been killed. Takaya is revived through the power of the demigod Kiyora, Goddess of Mt. Meru. Believing that Toko is dead, he swears vengeance on the demon gods.



Takaya

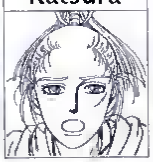


Yoko, with the soul of Toko inside her, finds Takaya and insists that she is Toko. Although Takaya does not believe her at first, he is convinced that her soul is indeed Toko's when he hears her sing a lullaby only Toko would know. He asks her to go with him to the land of Isana where Aohiko and the others are waiting for them, but Yoko is concerned about Kai and returns to Kiyu's army. Meanwhile, Aohiko says goodbye to Katsura as he prepares to face Kiyu's army alone. Katsura is shocked and saddened, but she understands Aohiko's feelings and accepts his decision. Aohiko then heads toward Kiyu's army alone, armed only with a yin stone mantra...!?



Ichirota

Katsura

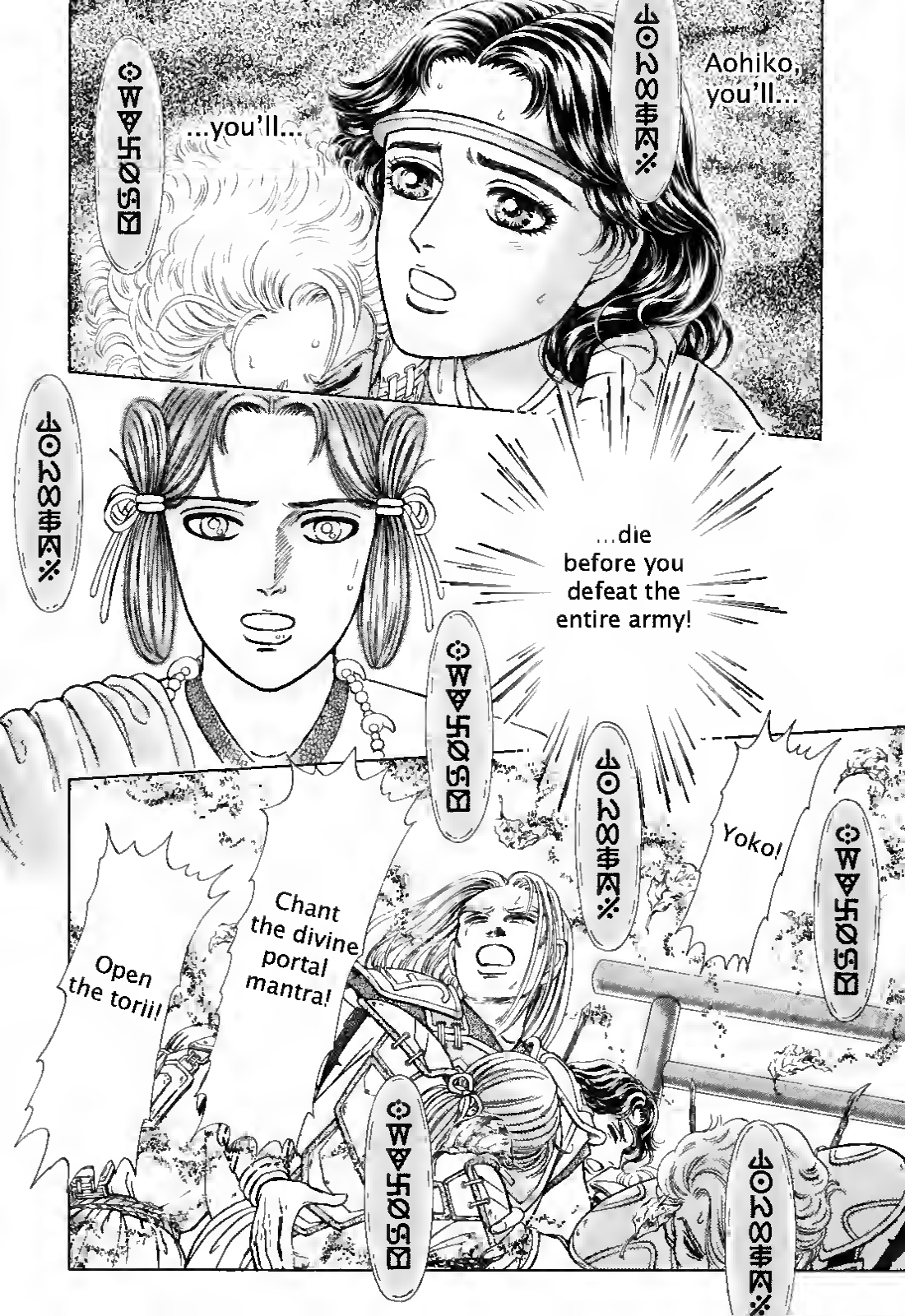


Aohiko

Mantra: a mysterious spell received from the gods that cannot be seen.

"Yin stone: a special stone that has negative energy. Its power is manifested through the use of mantras.
Demon headband: a headband Kiyu sets on the foreheads of his demon-god warriors. When these warriors are wounded, they go berserk."

※四字熟語
ふるえる
※四字熟語
ふるえる
※四字熟語
ふるえる
※四字熟語
ふるえる
That yin stone is too strong!
Aohiko! Stop!


Aohiko, you'll...
...you'll...
...die before you defeat the entire army!
Yoko!
Chant the divine portal mantra!
Open the tori!!

Ah! I see!
It's a strategy to drive them beyond the torii!
Everyone! Clear the way to the torii!
Hang in there, Aohiko!
Toko...!?
...I mean, Yoko knows a mantra for opening torii!?

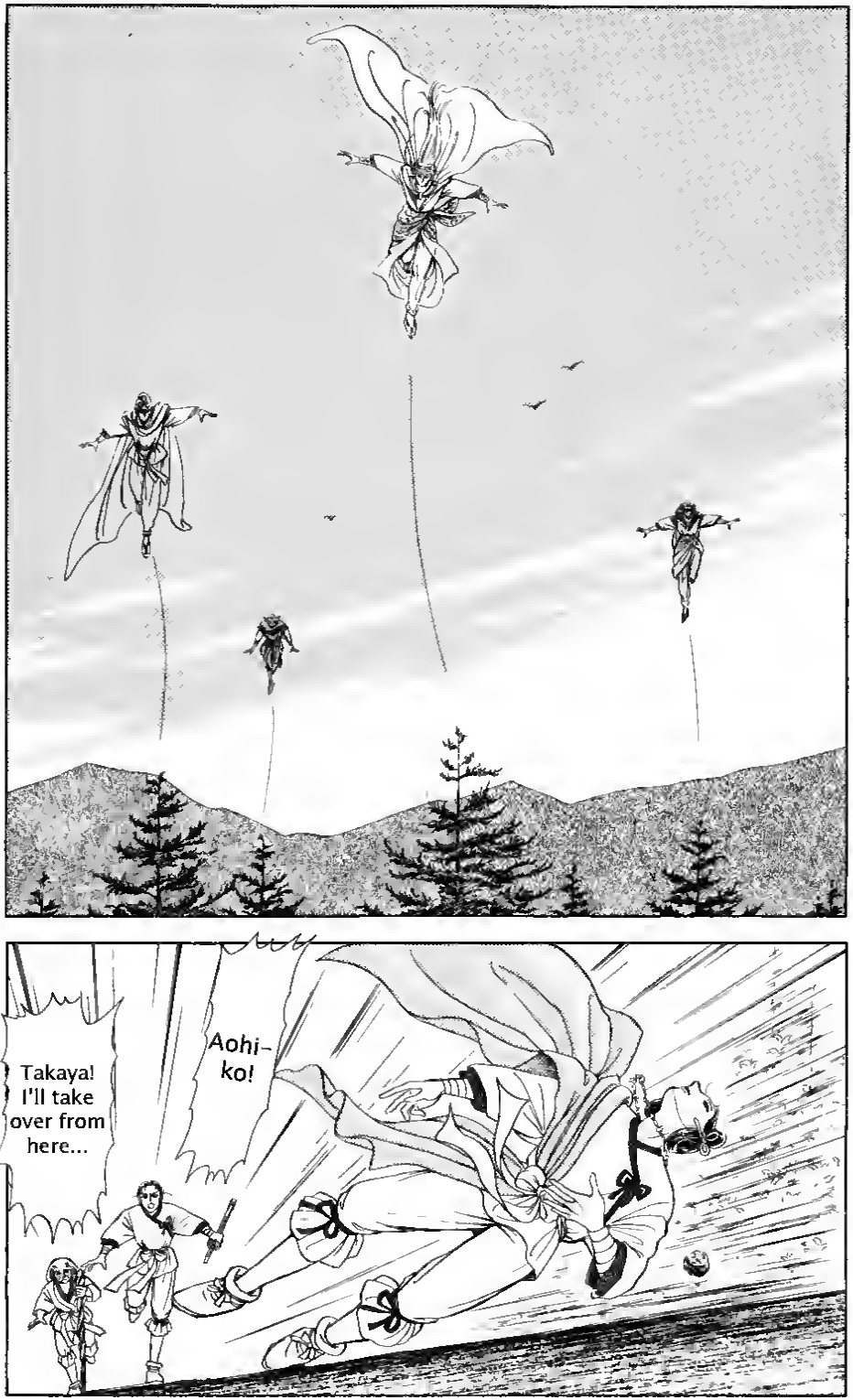
Kiyu!?
Let the warriors go in first.
Go ahead.
Lord Kiyu!
So that's where he is!
Everyone! The divine portal is about to open!
TWANG
TWANG
TWANG

Aohiko!
Aohiko!
If you don't stop, you're gonna die!
TWANNG

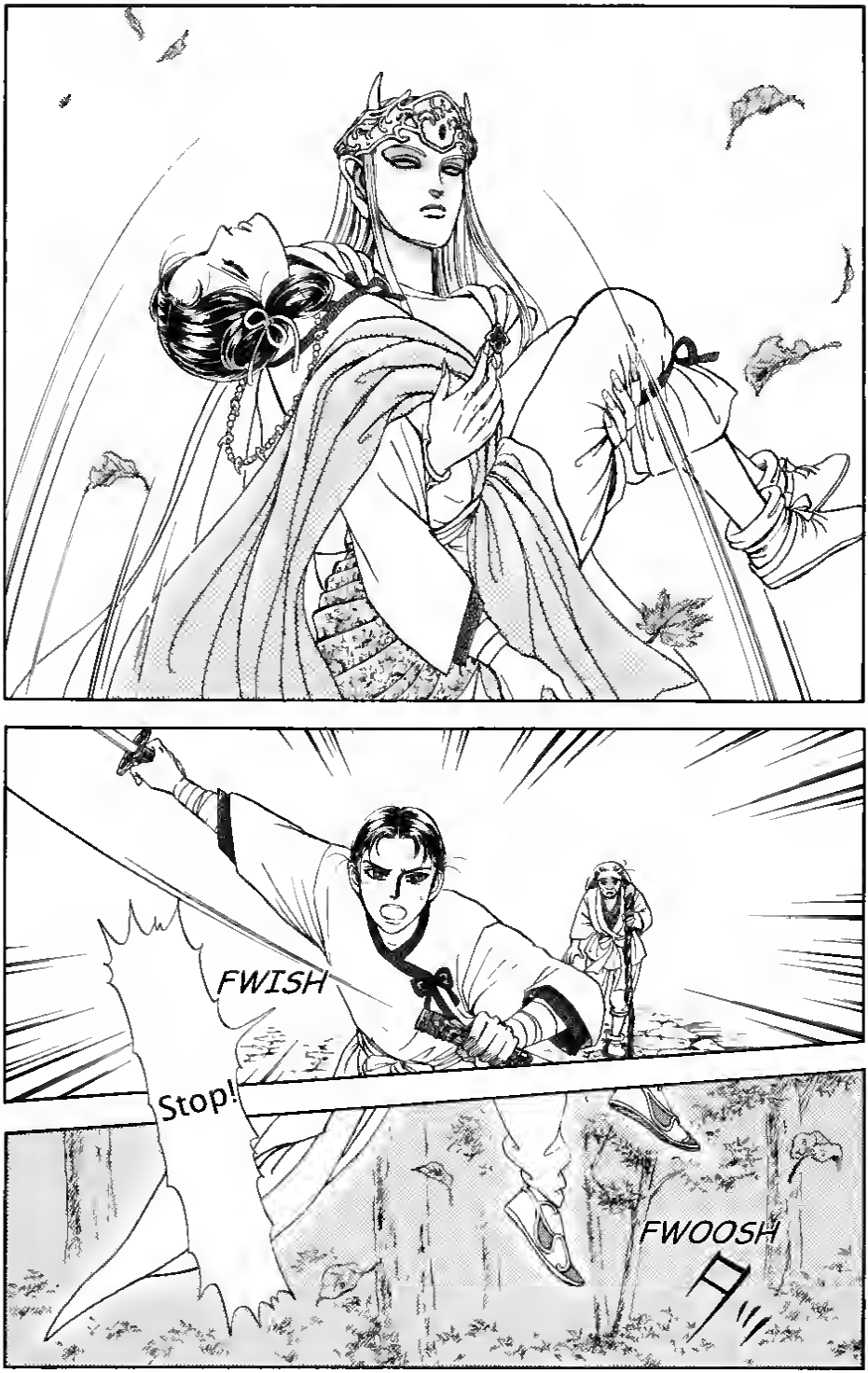
It's open!
Into the portal!

Once a portal closes, it can't be reopened.
Hurry, Yoko!
Oh no... His life force is going to run out!

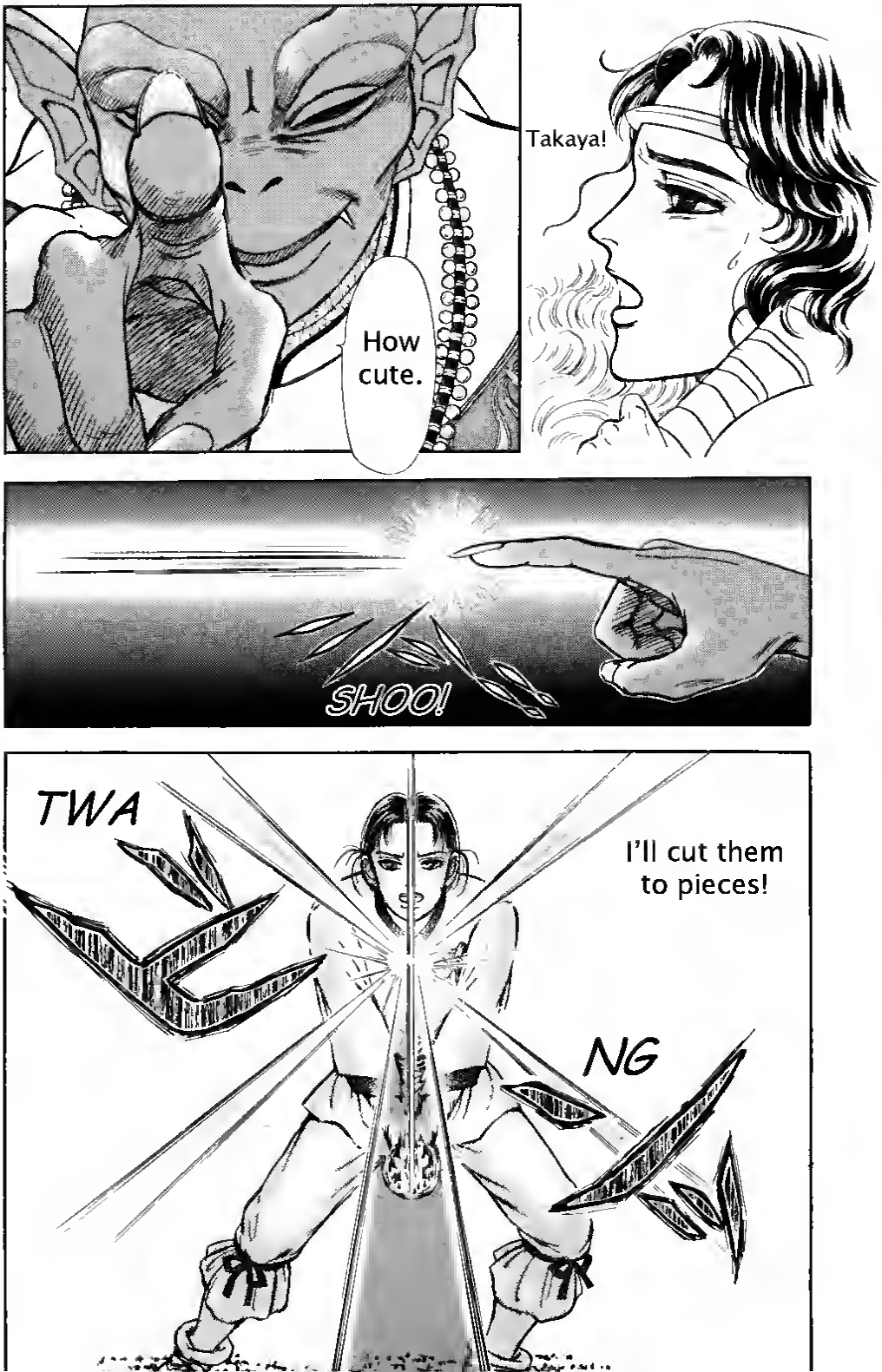
ふぶきよ…!!
Aohiko!
SHOO


Takaya! I'll take over from here...
Aohi-ko!

Kiyu!
Oh no!

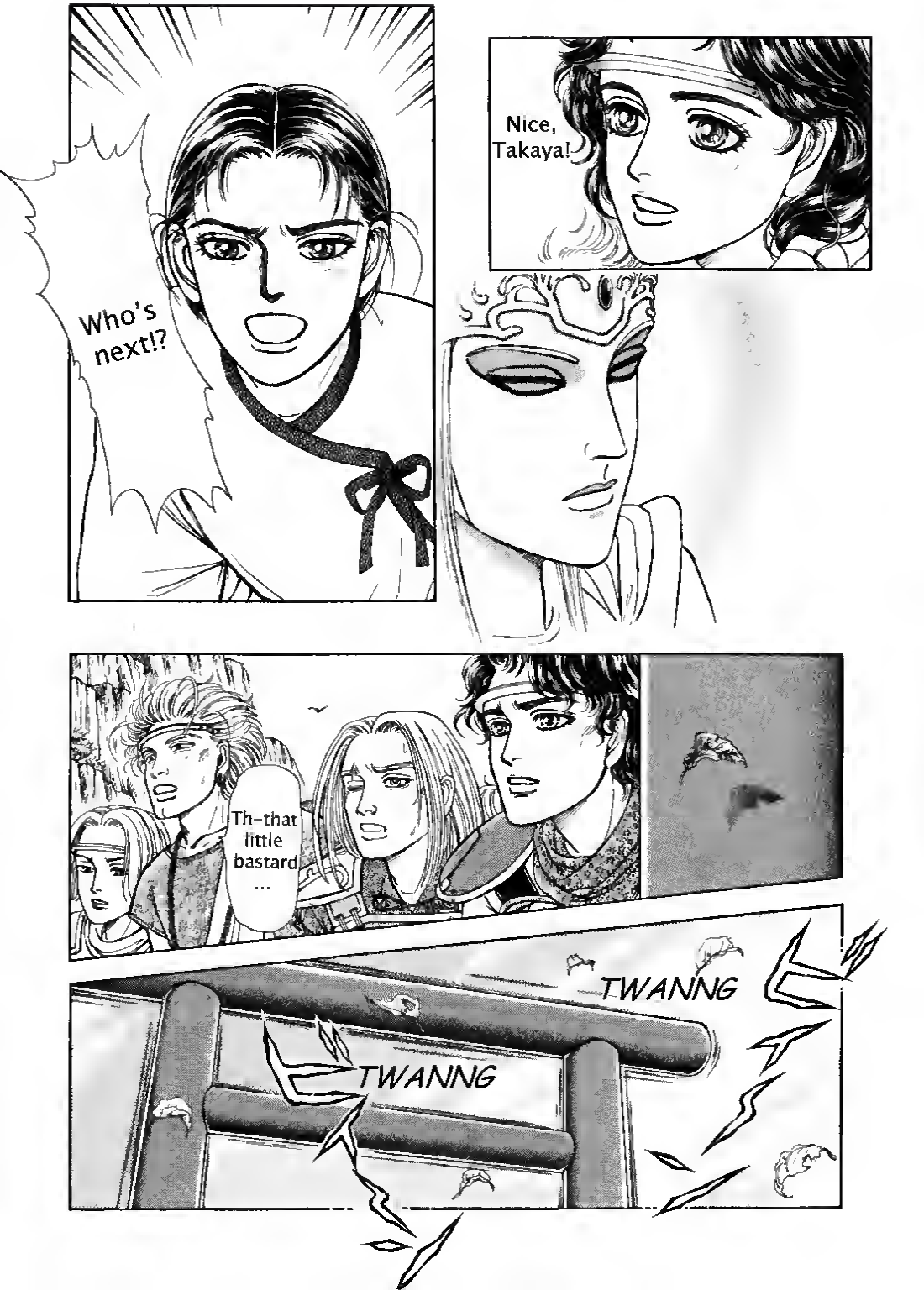

FWISH
Stop!
FWOOSH

Who does he think he is, drawing his sword against us...?
HEHEH
クク
So that's Takaya...
I can kill them!
I can do it!
YAA-AH!


How cute.
Takaya!
SHOO!
TWA
I'll cut them to pieces!
NG

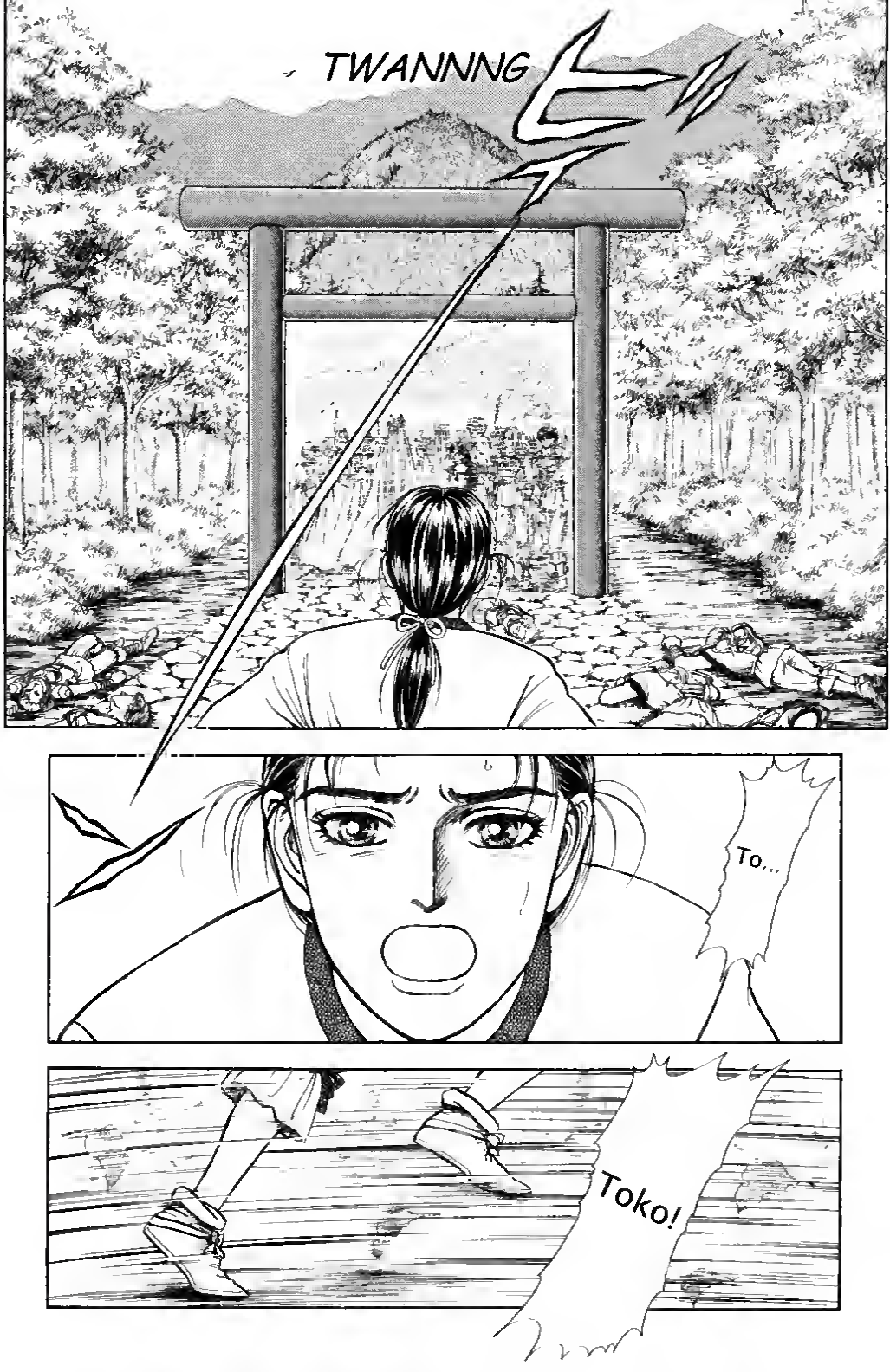
Ohh!
...travels through the sacred sword!
My life force...
HAAH!
I can kill them!
I can kill them!

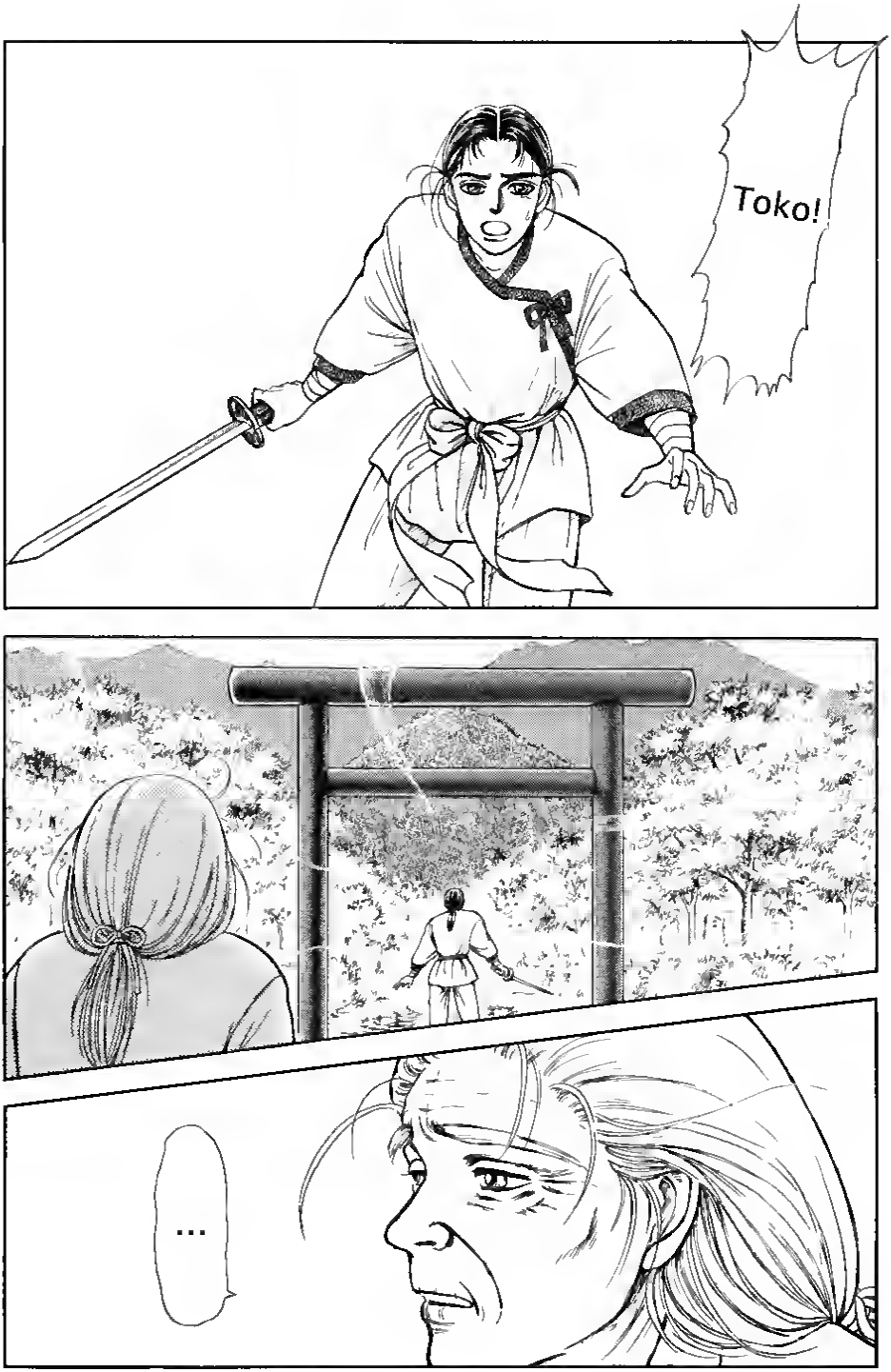
SLASH
FSSSH
Ohh!


Who's next!?
Nice, Takaya!
Th-that little bastard ...
TWANNG
TWANNG

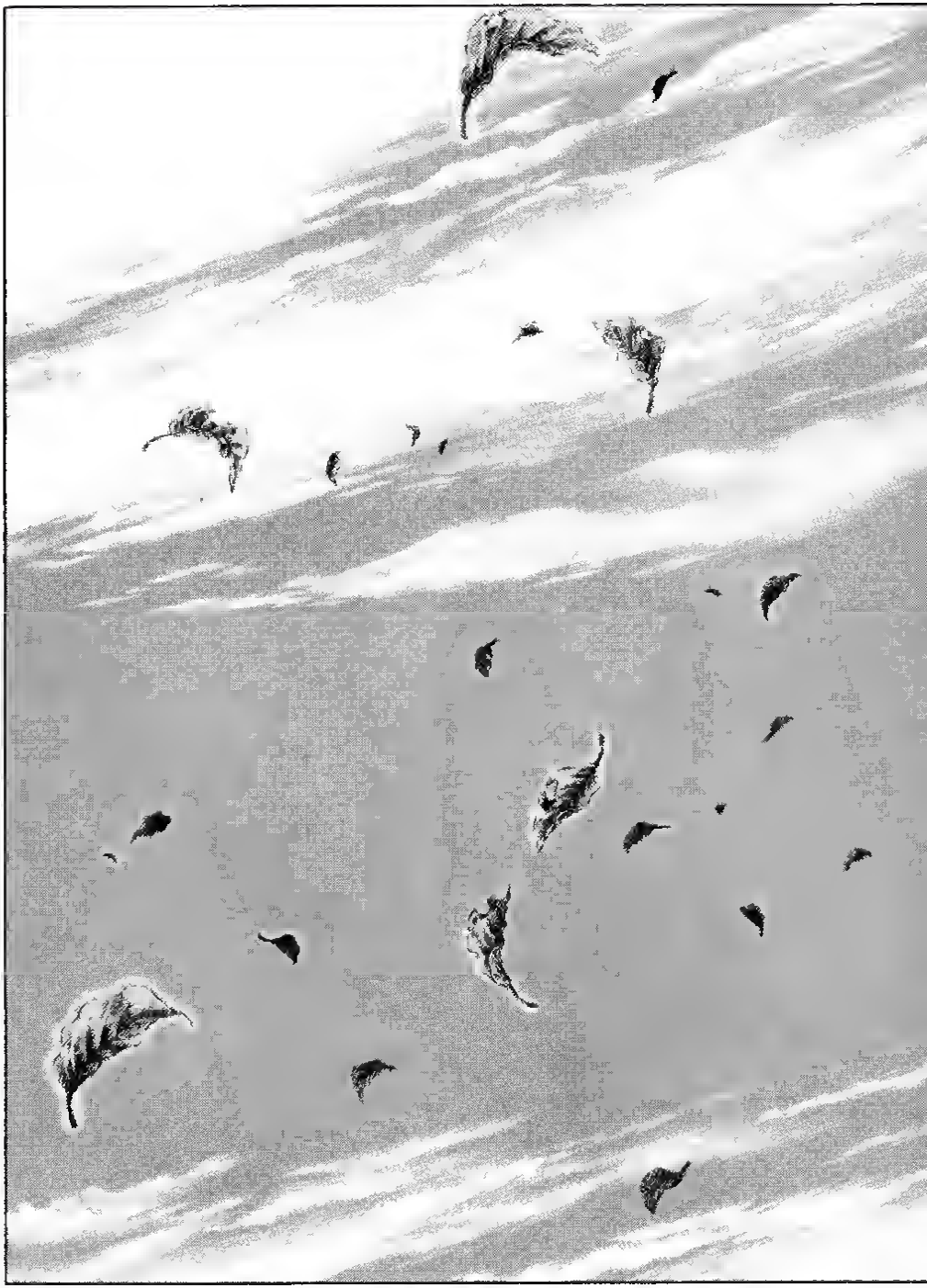
TWANNNG
Wait!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
Are you going to kill this man too?

Ugh ...
Quickly, my Lord!
Come, Yoko!
Takaya...
SHOVE
Take care of Kai!


TWANNNG
To...
Toko!

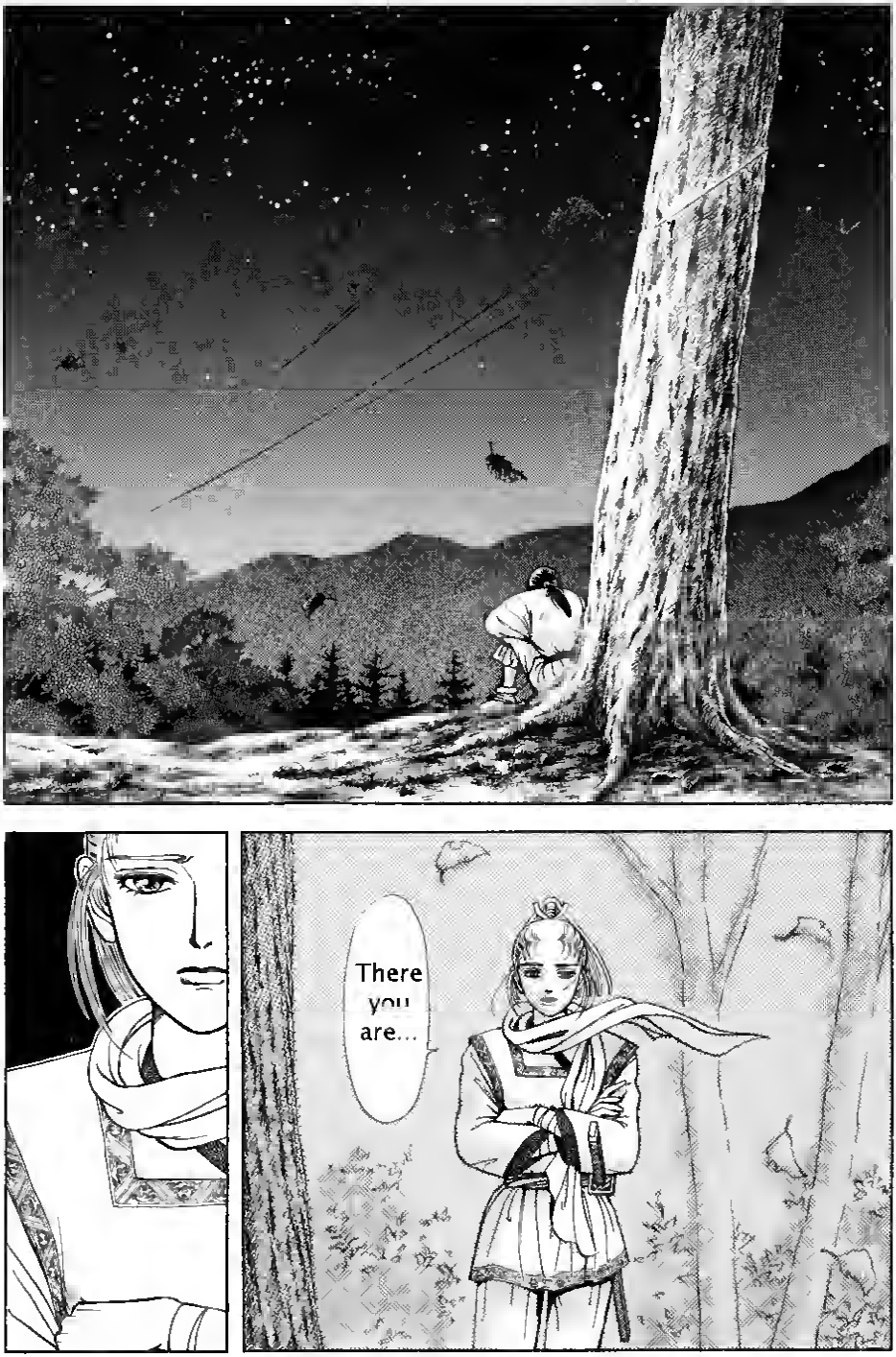

Toko!
...

WHOO...

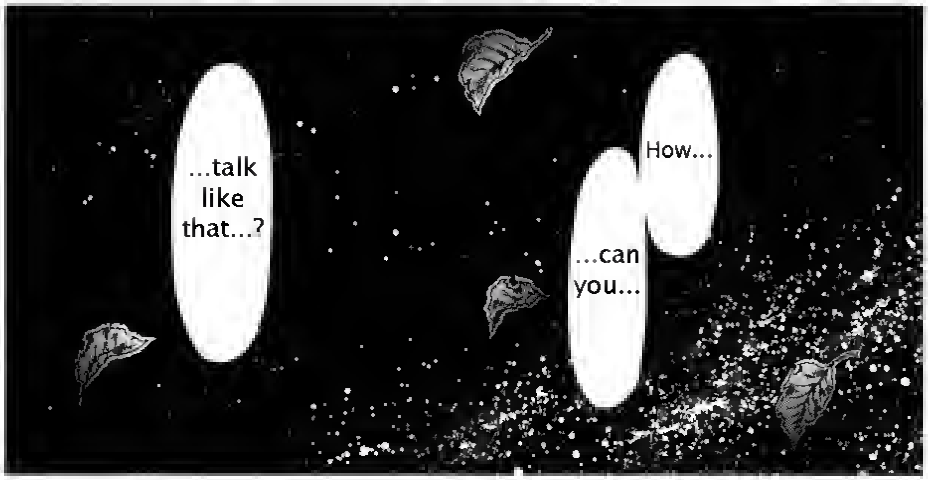


How will
I ever find her...

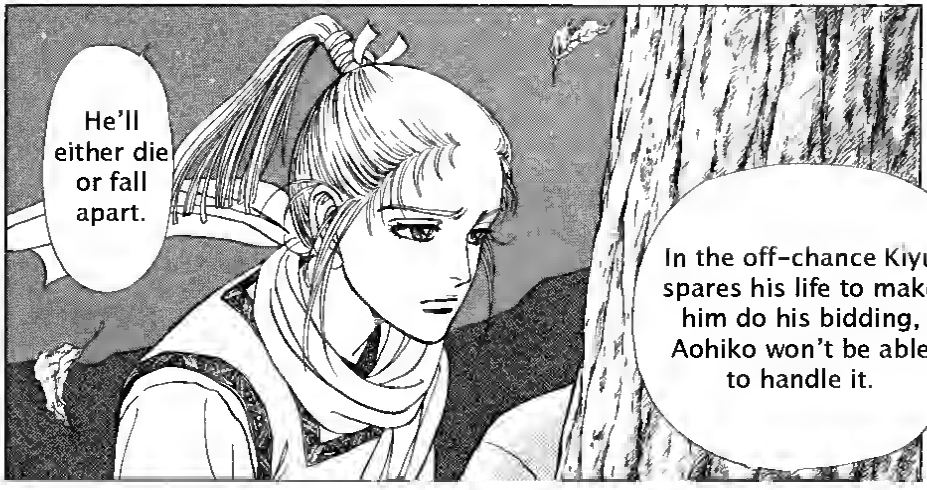
...beneath this endless sky?
Toko!


There you are...

Misen told me what happened.
He's discouraged too. Says he's useless in his old age...
Takaya ...
What good is this going to do?
Who's going to look for Toko and Aohiko...?


...talk like that...?
How...
...can you...

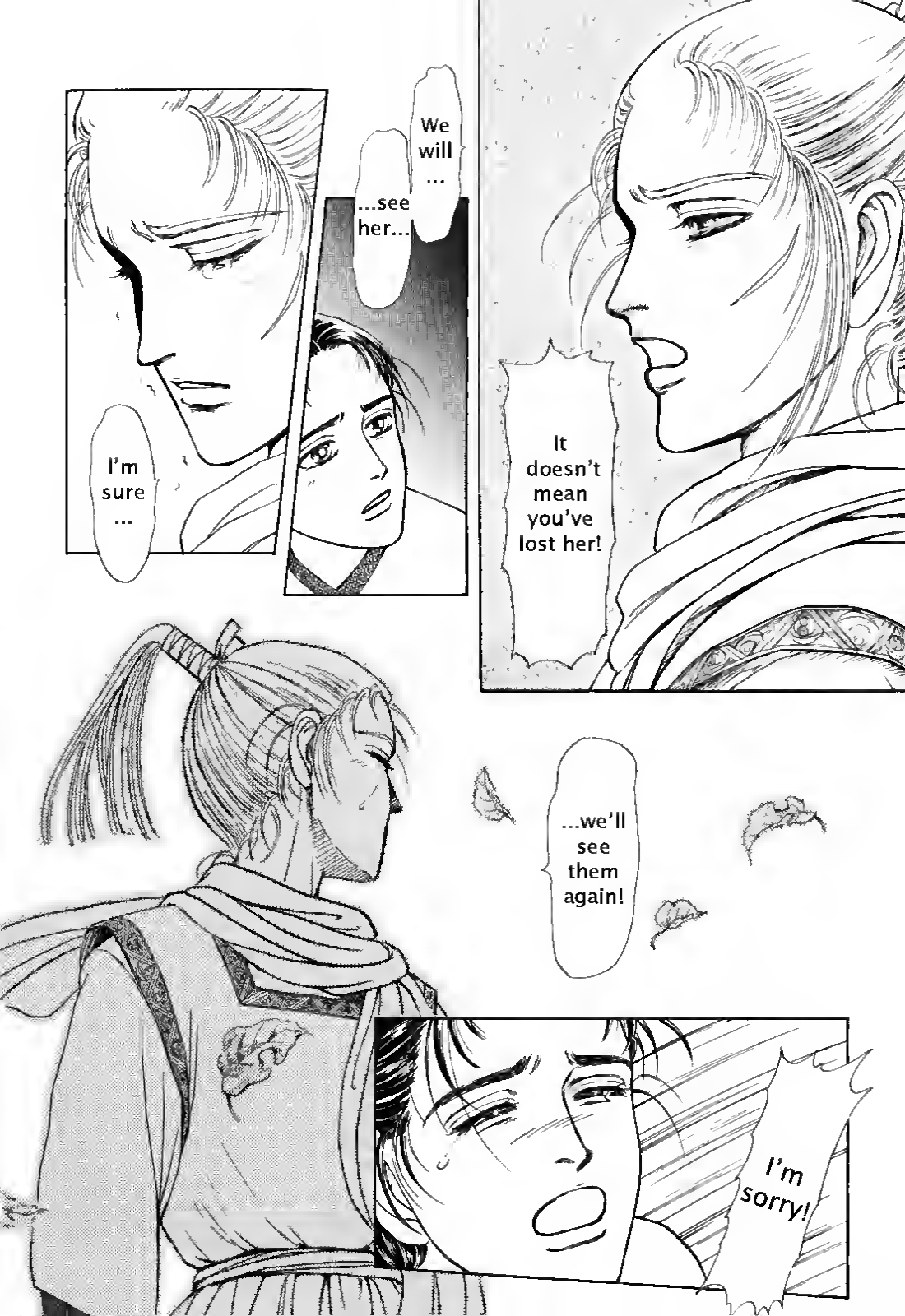
There's no way they'll let him live...
Even if he survived, he killed and wounded all those demon-god warriors...
Aohiko's life force was almost gone...

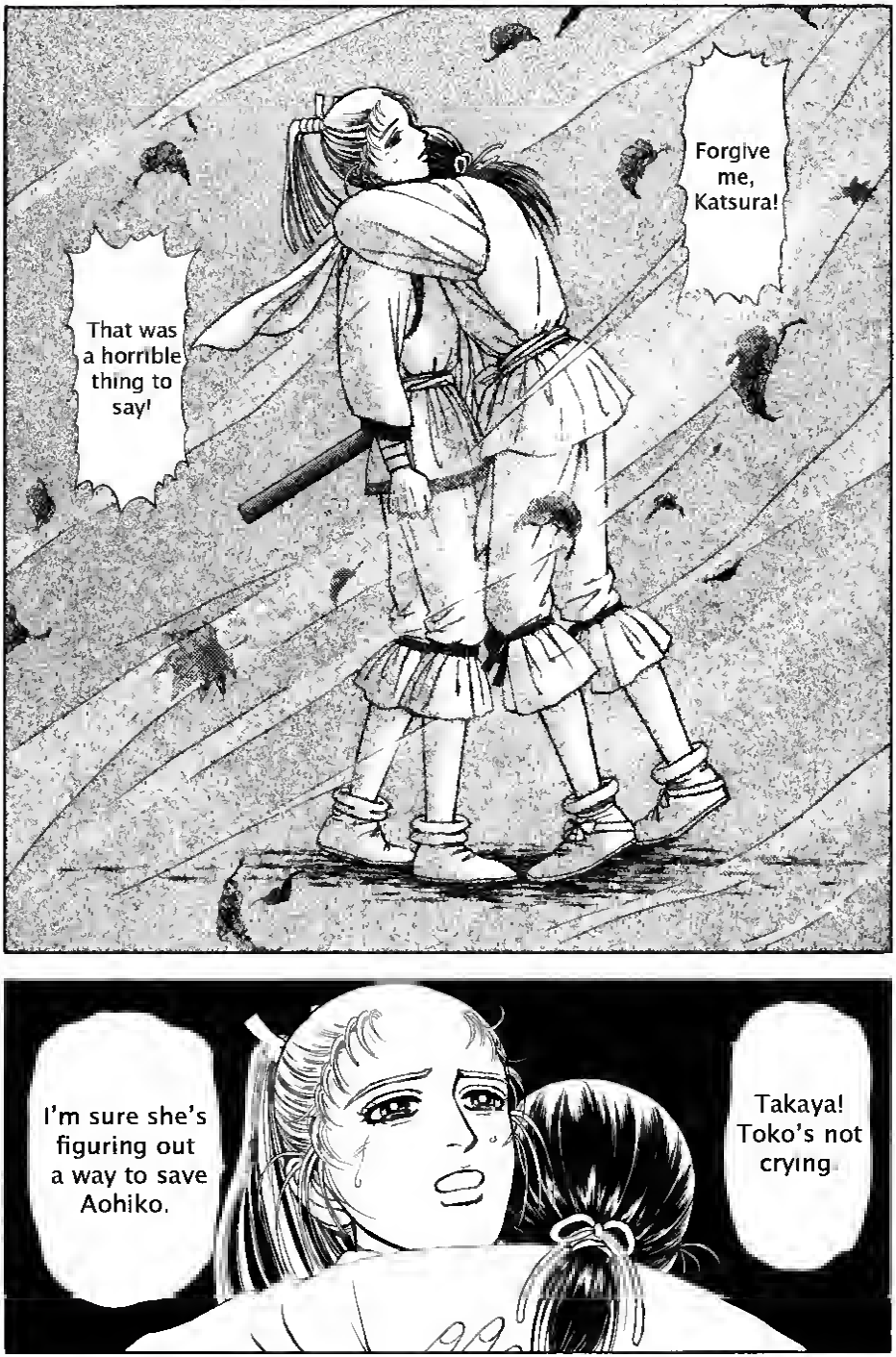

He'll either die or fall apart.
In the off-chance Kiyu spares his life to make him do his bidding, Aohiko won't be able to handle it.

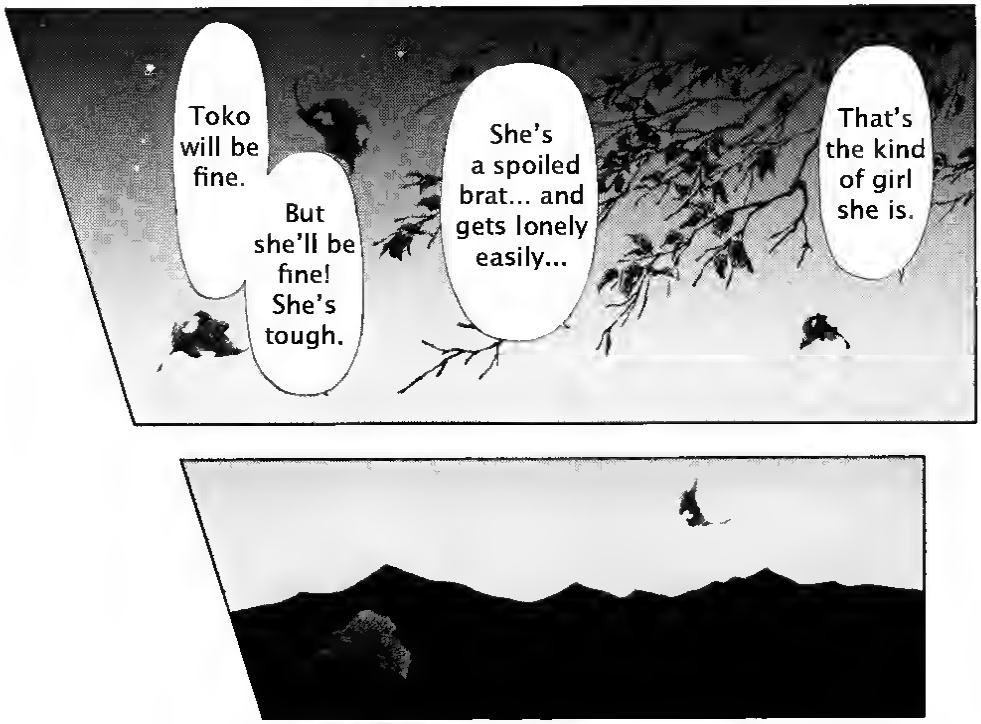
SLAP
Shame on you, Takaya!
Is that what you'd say to Toko!?
Why do you think she stayed with Kiyu!?

I'm ashamed of myself!
Yes, shame on me!
I've failed to save Toko... not once but twice... when she was right in front of me!
I let Aohiko be abducted ...
BAM
I...

...Toko again...
GRIND
losing
I can't bear...
...you're just going to fold your arms and spend your days moping around?
So...
...have no idea how I feel!
You ...


We will ...
...see her...
I'm sure ...
It doesn't mean you've lost her!
...we'll see them again!
I'm sorry!

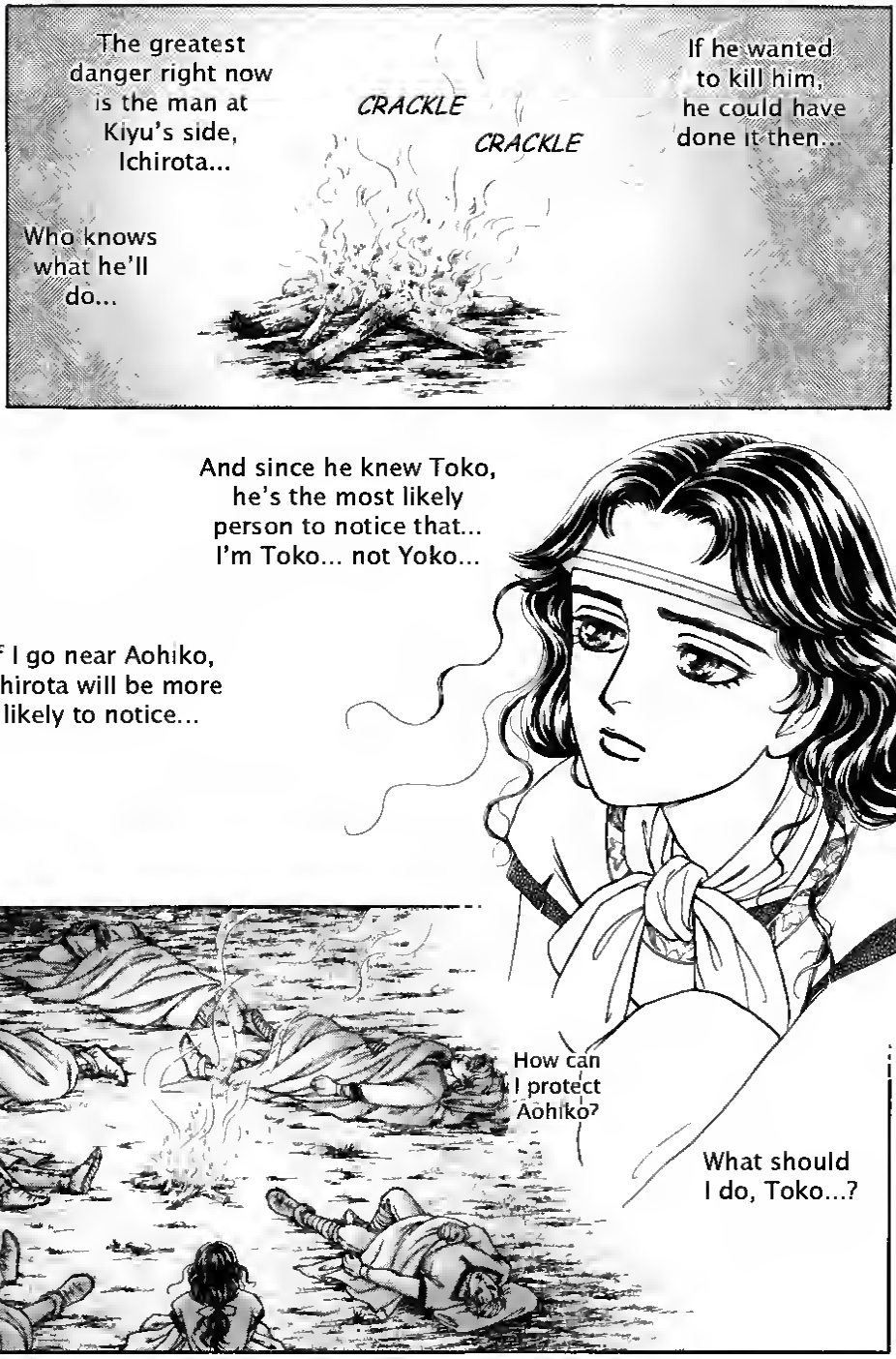

Forgive me, Katsura!
That was a horrible thing to say!
I'm sure she's figuring out a way to save Aohiko.
Takaya! Toko's not crying.

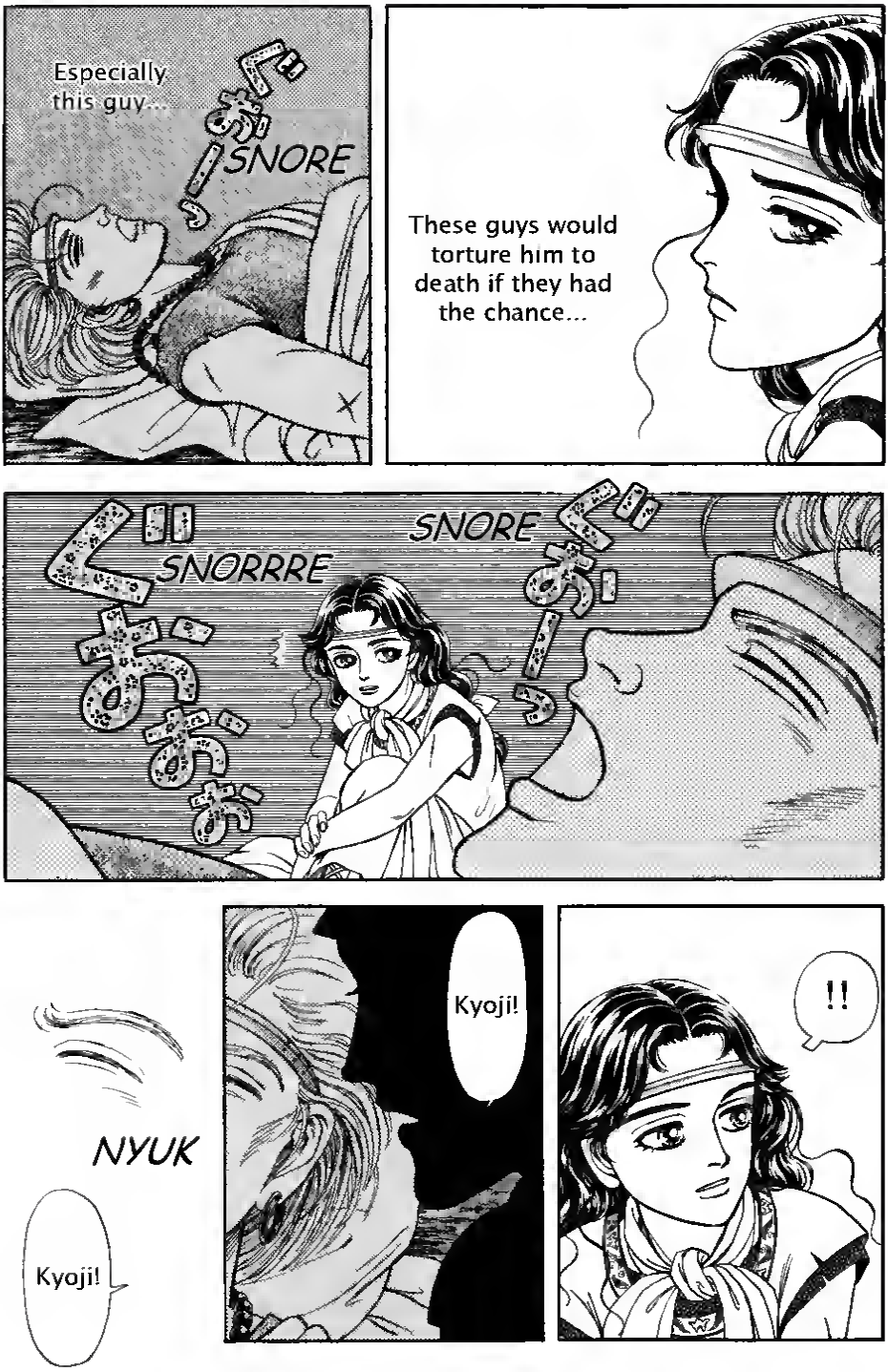


Kiyu has healed everyone except Aohiko.

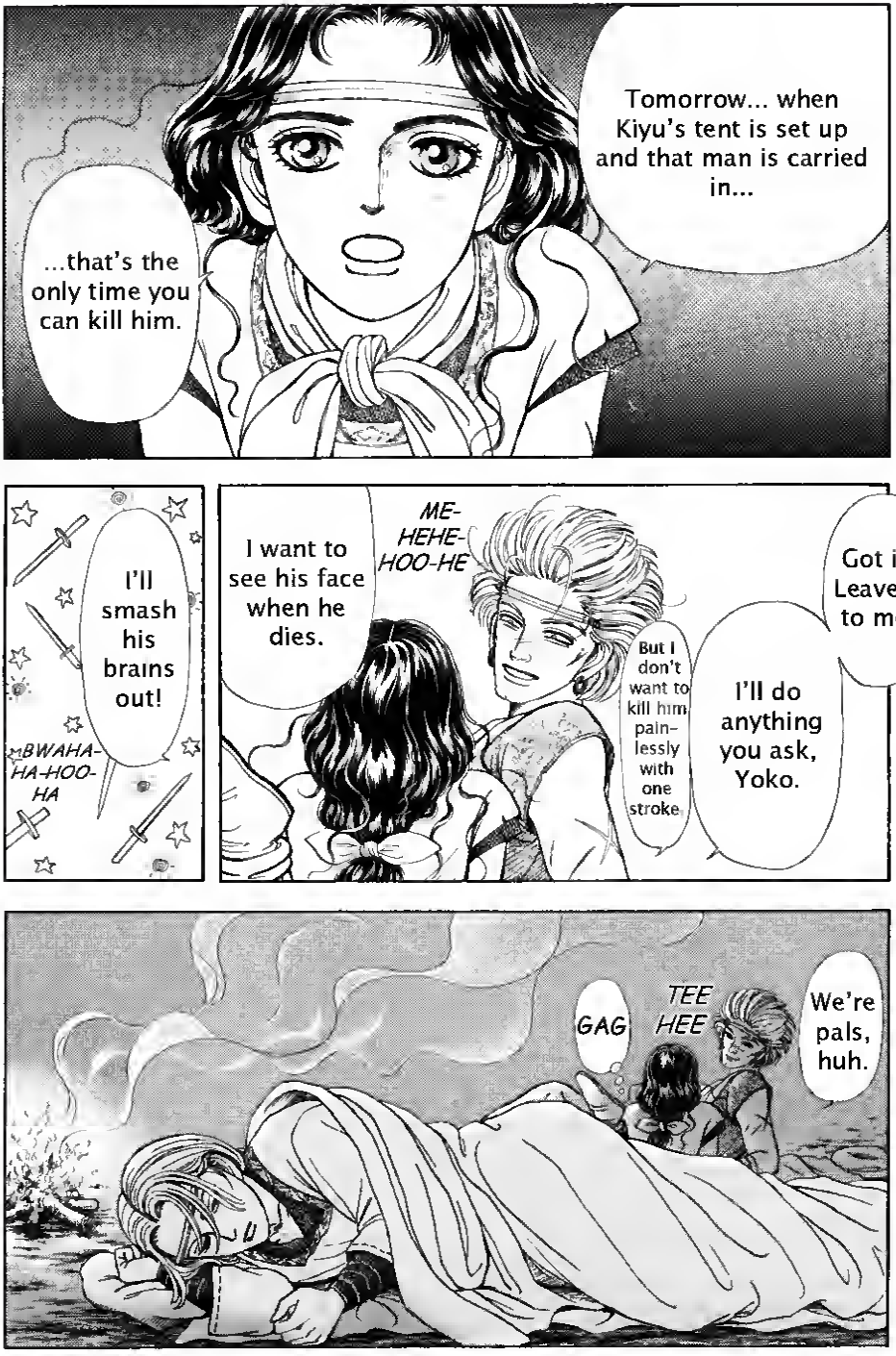
But...

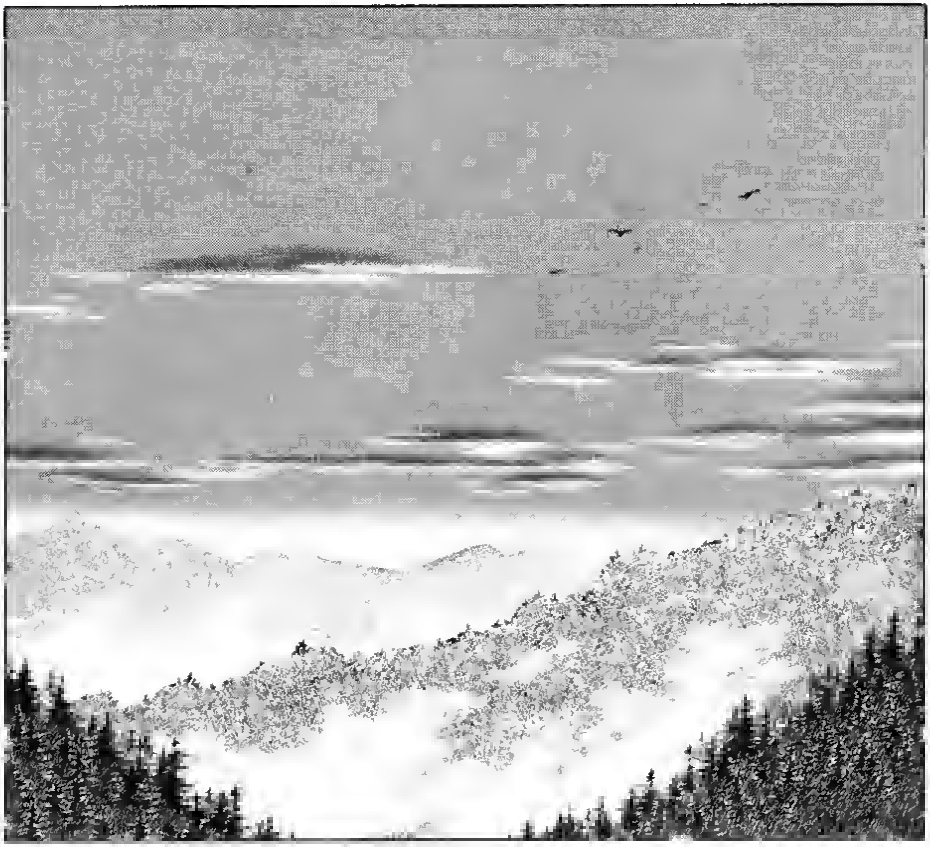
He won't kill Aohiko right away.

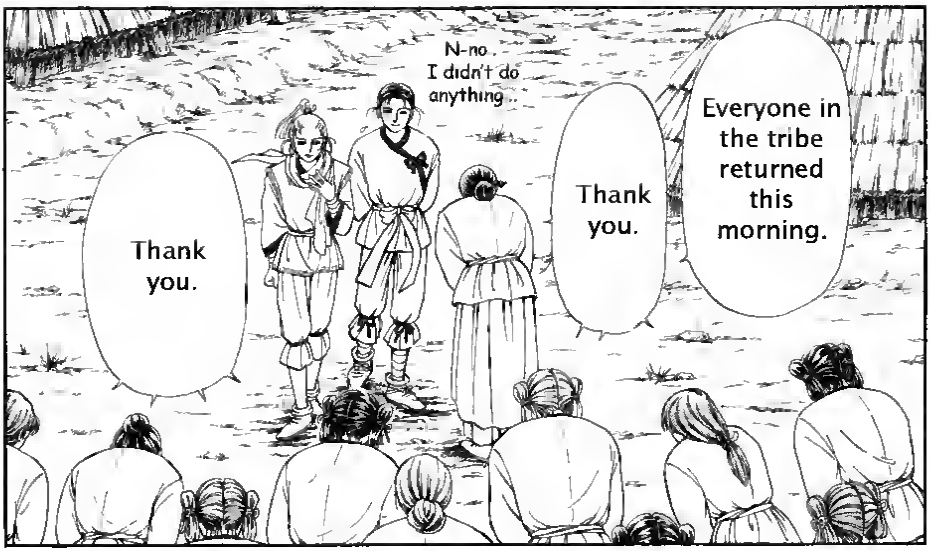

The greatest danger right now is the man at Kiyu's side, Ichirota...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
If he wanted to kill him, he could have done it then...
Who knows what he'll do...
And since he knew Toko, he's the most likely person to notice that... I'm Toko... not Yoko...
If I go near Aohiko, Ichirota will be more likely to notice...
How can I protect Aohiko?
What should I do, Toko...?

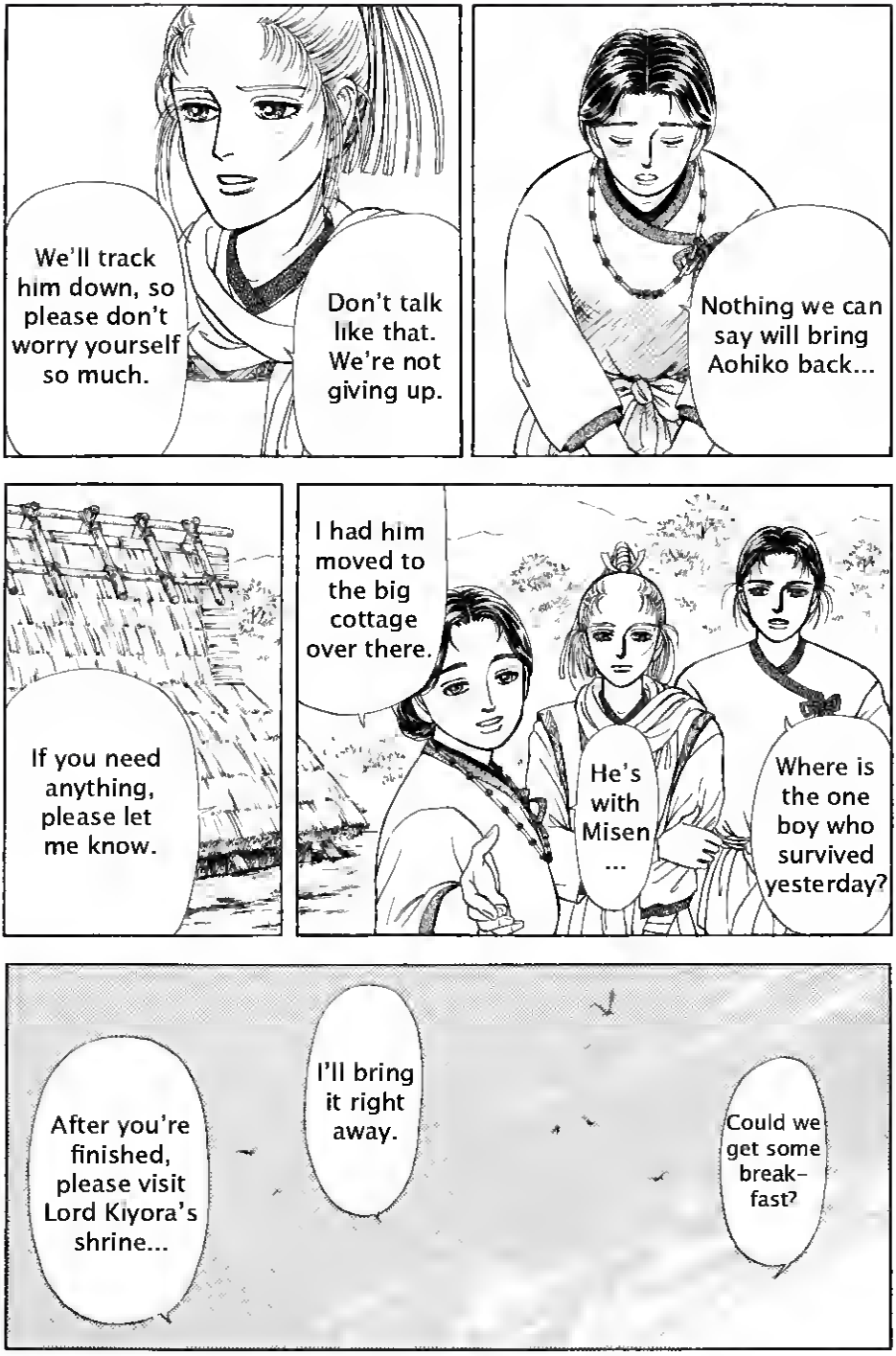

Especially this guy...
SNORE
These guys would torture him to death if they had the chance...
SNORRE
SNORE
NYUK
Kyoji!
Kyoji!
!!

Y-Yoko...
SHHH
Mm?
You hate him too, right? He killed more than half of our friends.
Tomorrow...
Kill that man...
The man Kiyu captured today.
Oh... She's so cute.
I can't bear it!
It's because of him that I got separated from Kai...

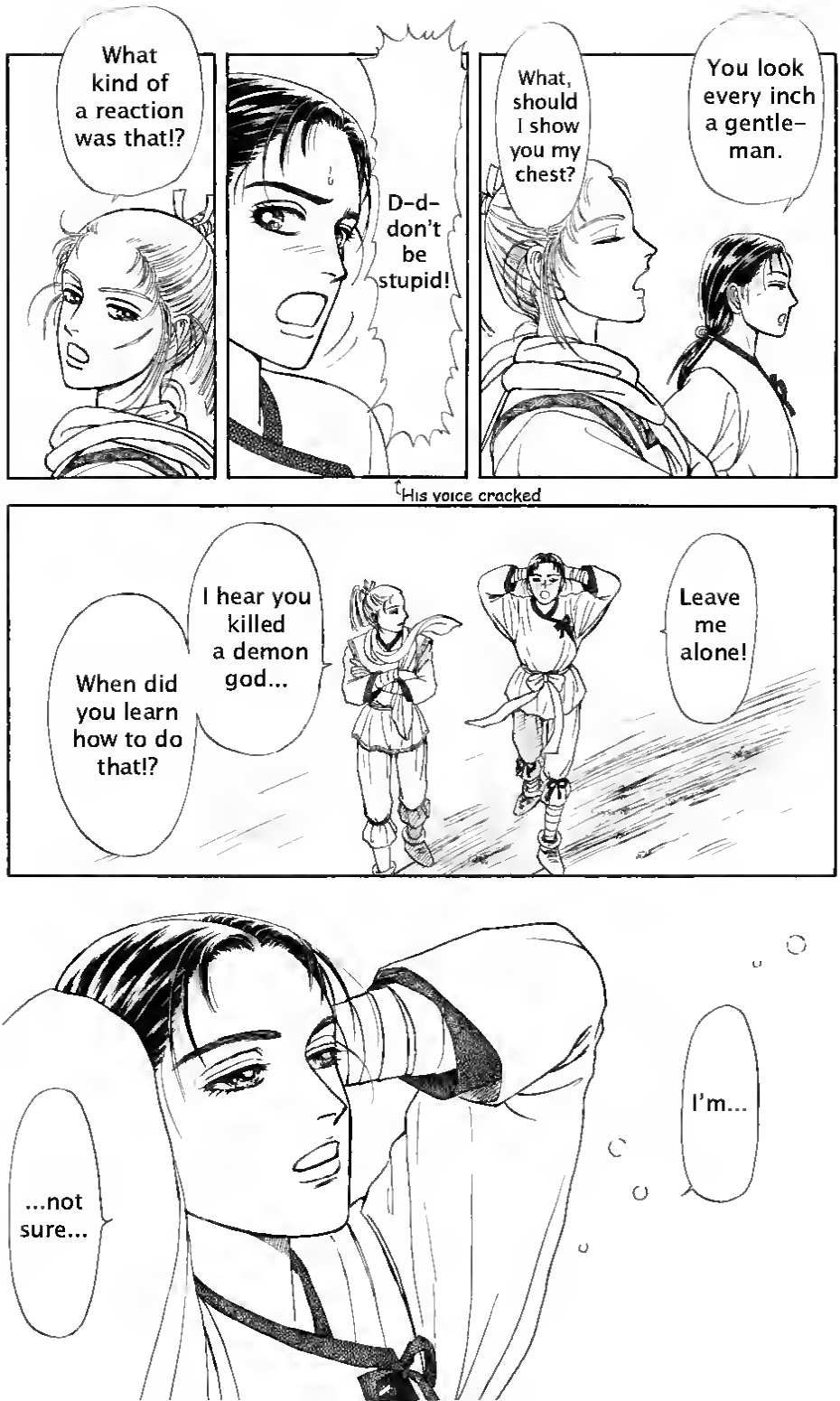

Tomorrow... when Kiyu's tent is set up and that man is carried in...
...that's the only time you can kill him.
I'll smash his brains out!
BWAHA-HA-HOO-HA
I want to see his face when he dies.
ME-HEHE-HOO-HE
But I don't want to kill him painlessly with one stroke.
I'll do anything you ask, Yoko.
Got it! Leave it to me.
GAG
TEE HEE
We're pals, huh.

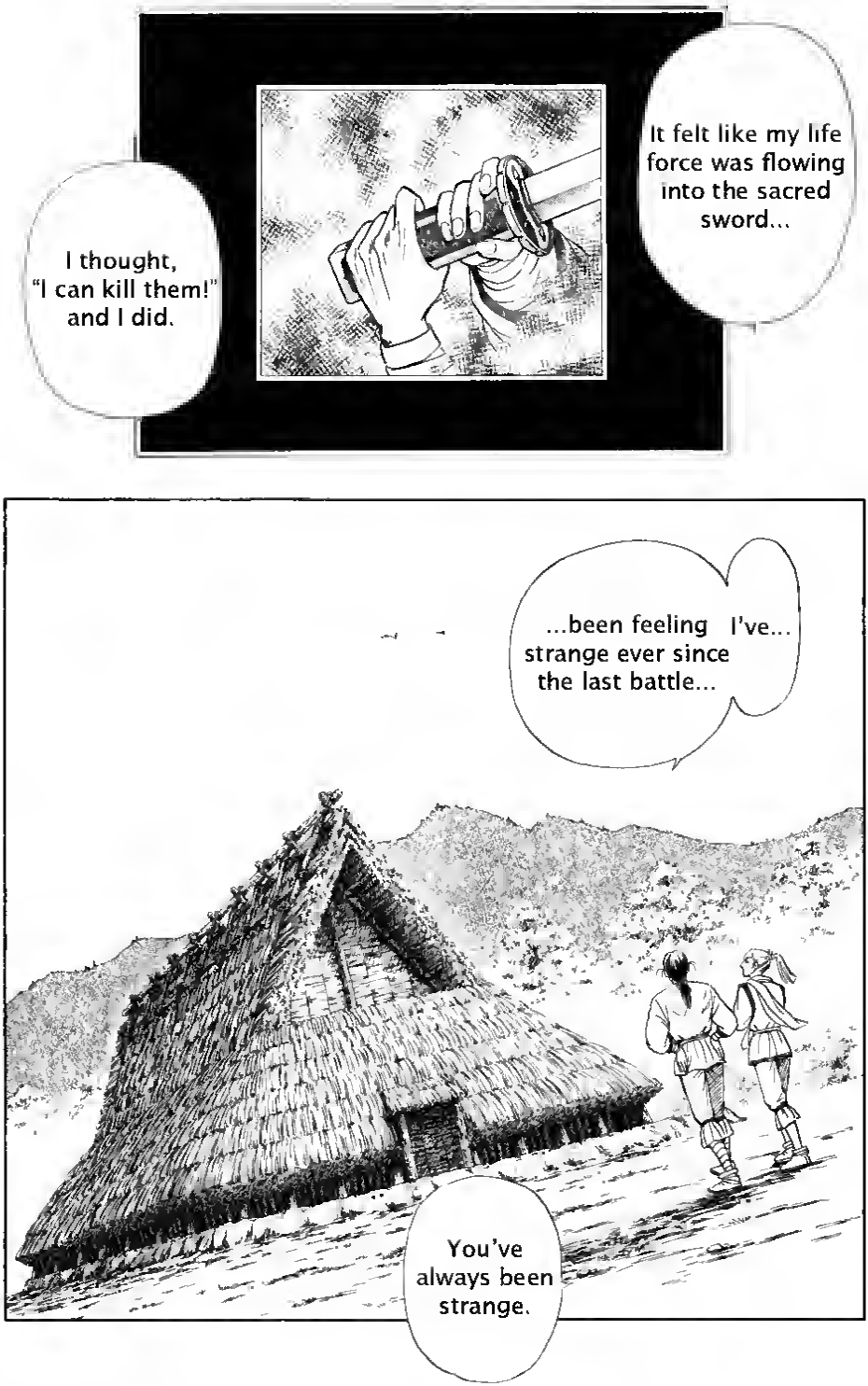


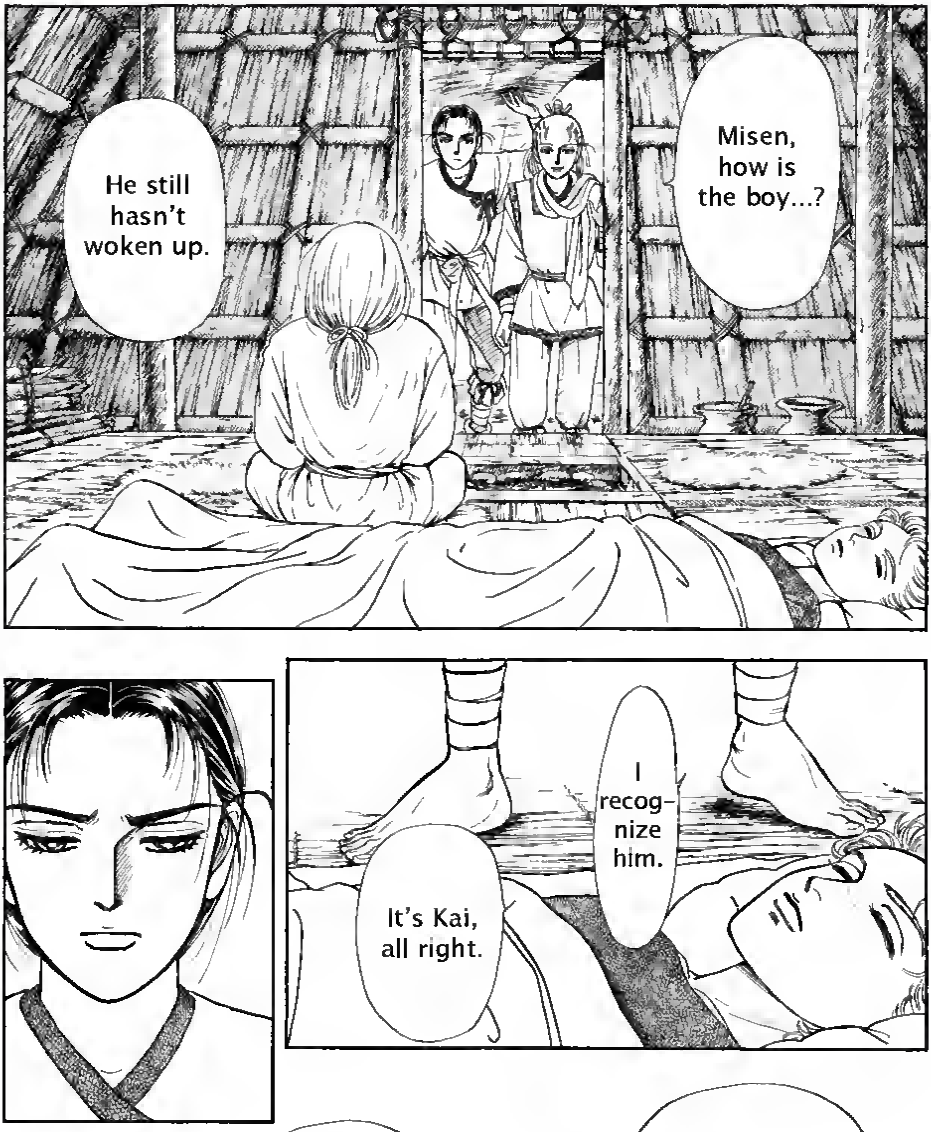

Everyone in the tribe returned this morning.
Thank you.
N-no. I didn't do anything.
Thank you.

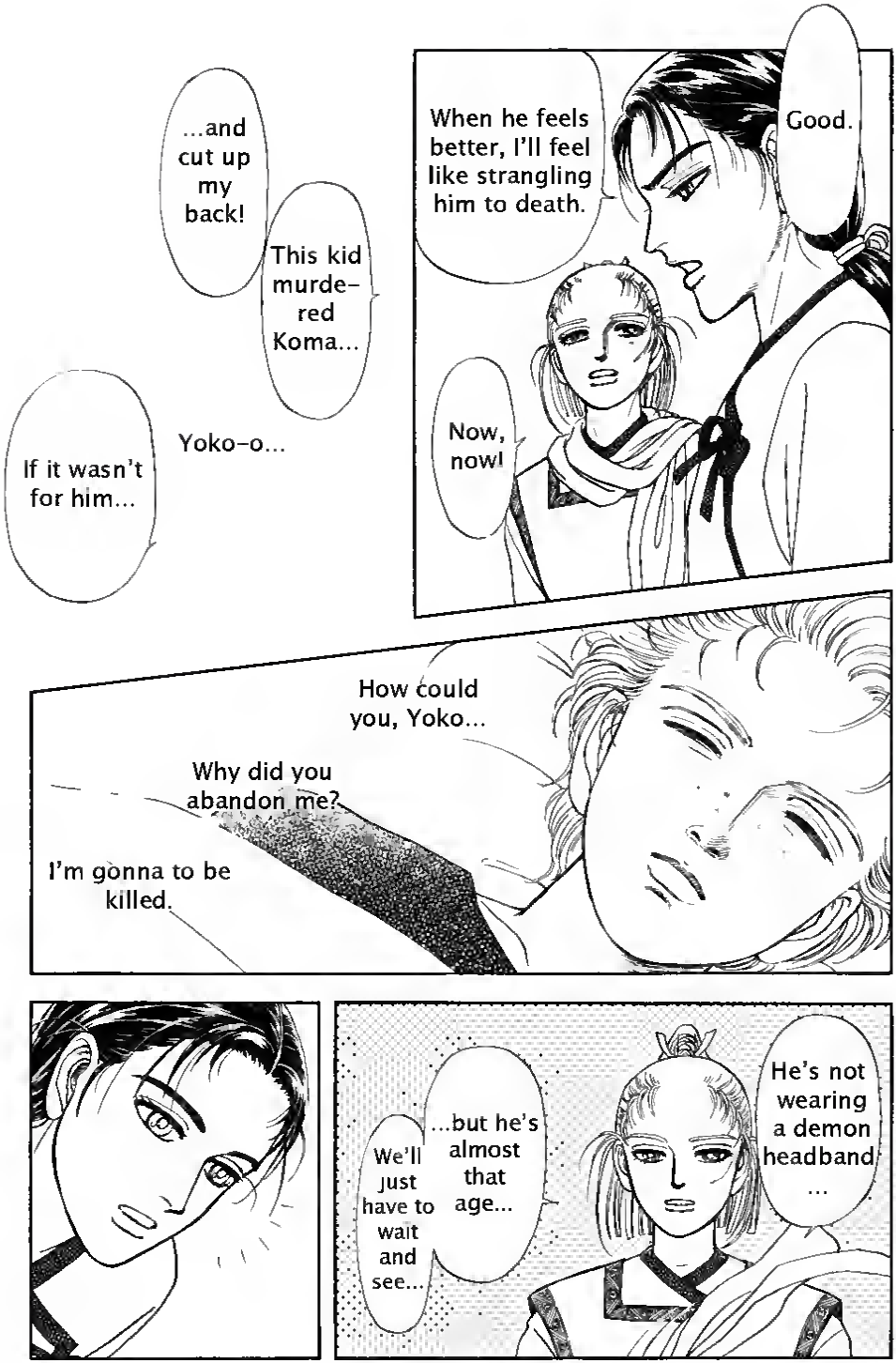

We'll track him down, so please don't worry yourself so much.
Don't talk like that. We're not giving up.
Nothing we can say will bring Aohiko back...
If you need anything, please let me know.
I had him moved to the big cottage over there.
He's with Misen ...
Where is the one boy who survived yesterday?
After you're finished, please visit Lord Kiyora's shrine...
I'll bring it right away.
Could we get some break-fast?

I have good ears...
...so I hear every-thing.
Takaya looks like a strong, beautiful hawk, just like his name.
Aohiko was so handsome. It's too bad he was captured...
Wow!
I heard that Takaya guy killed a demon god.
Takaya! This isn't the time to ogle women.
My, my... What a hand-some man.
Ooh! He looked this way.
Cute! He's blush-ing!
Hmph!
You've made women cry too!
So!?
It's not my fault if they mistake me for a man.
You've made coun-tless women cry...
Oh really ...
I'm not ogling them!
I'm not that kind of guy.
Usually the better a guy's personality, the more rotten he is at the core.

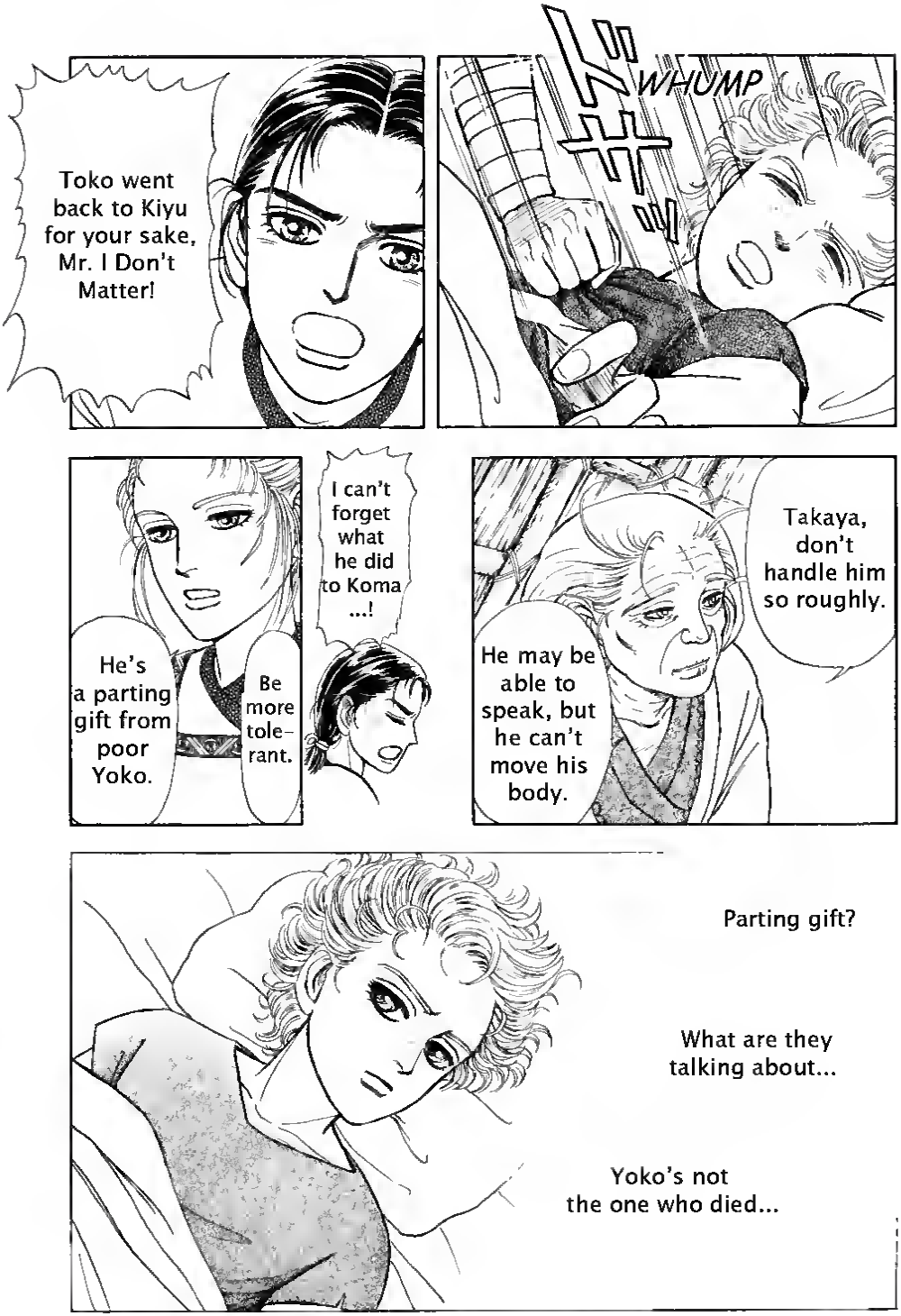

What kind of a reaction was that!?
D-d-don't be stupid!
What, should I show you my chest?
You look every inch a gentleman.
↑His voice cracked
When did you learn how to do that!?
I hear you killed a demon god...
Leave me alone!
...not sure...
I'm...


I thought, "I can kill them!" and I did.
It felt like my life force was flowing into the sacred sword...
...been feeling I've... strange ever since the last battle...
You've always been strange.


He still hasn't woken up.
Misen, how is the boy...?
I recog-nize him.
It's Kai, all right.
...but he won't be able to move for a while, even if he wakes up...
He survived because he was surrounded by Toko's life force...


...and cut up my back!
This kid murde-red Koma...
If it wasn't for him...
Yoko-o...
When he feels better, I'll feel like strangling him to death.
Good.
Now, now!
How could you, Yoko...
Why did you abandon me?
I'm gonna to be killed.
We'll just have to wait and see...
...but he's almost that age...
He's not wearing a demon headband ...

Kill me...
He's awake!
It doesn't matter...
...what happens to me anymore.
YOU IDIOT!


Toko went back to Kiyu for your sake, Mr. I Don't Matter!
WHUMP
He's a parting gift from poor Yoko.
Be more tole-rant.
I can't forget what he did to Koma ...!
He may be able to speak, but he can't move his body.
Takaya, don't handle him so roughly.
Parting gift?
What are they talking about...
Yoko's not the one who died...

Taka-ya?
UGH
I've killed and wounded people too...
I guess so. I don't mean to blame it all on him.
Hey... You okay?
When I looked at his face, the wound on my back started hurting.
Rgh!
Strip down! We'll change your bandage too.
She's right!
Your "okay" really means "I'm not okay."
Yeah! I'm okay now.

Only a monster survives a wound like that.

Serves you right!

...when he was near me...

...I got this strange feeling...

Earlier...

...

What's what?

Wh-whoa! Takaya!

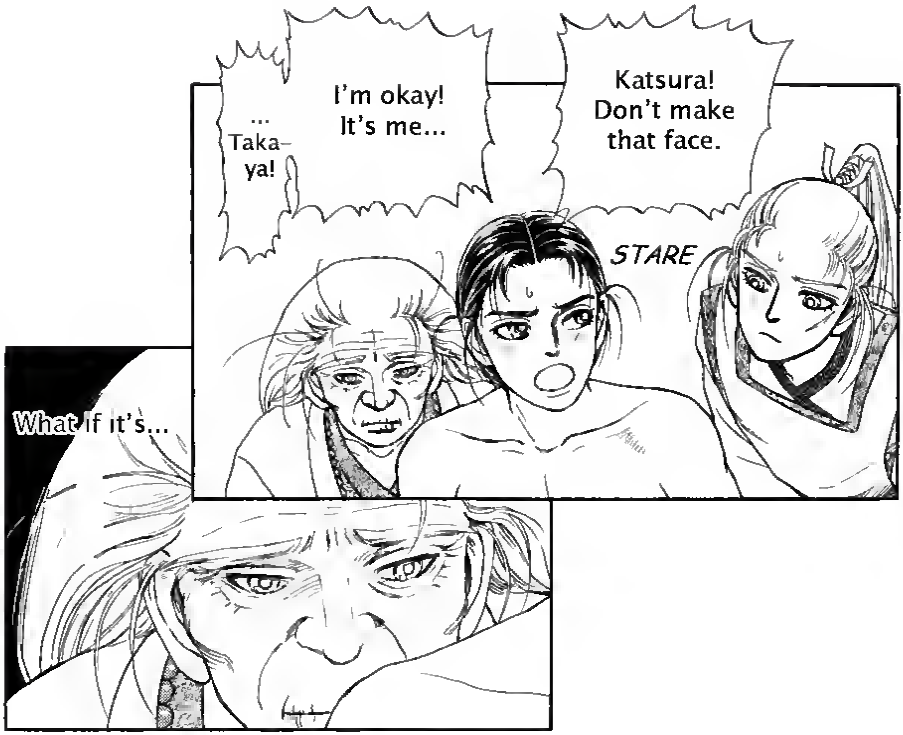
What's this?

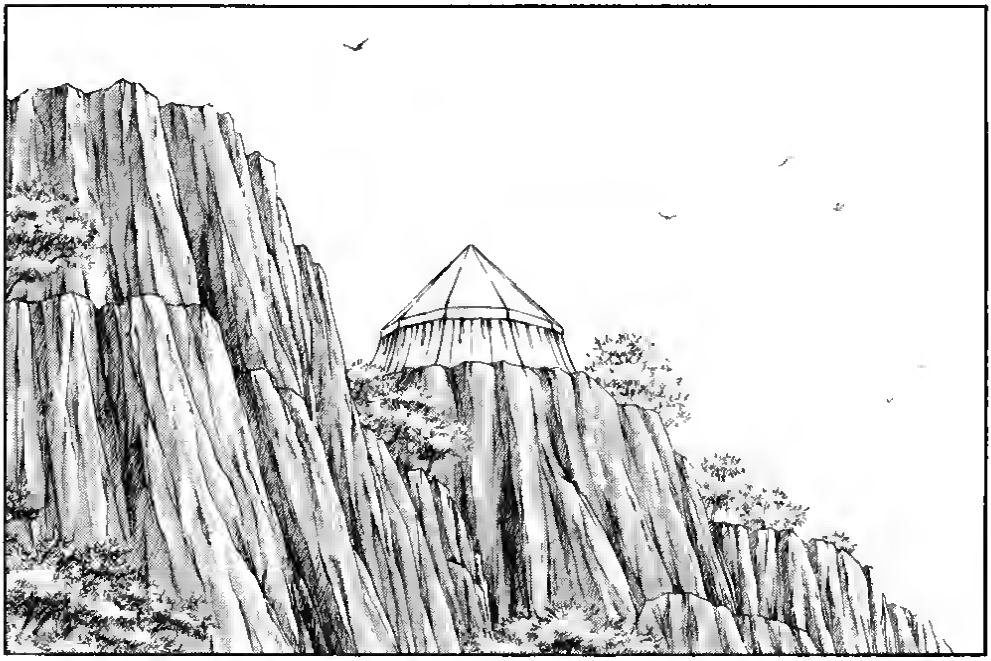
He has... that same smell...

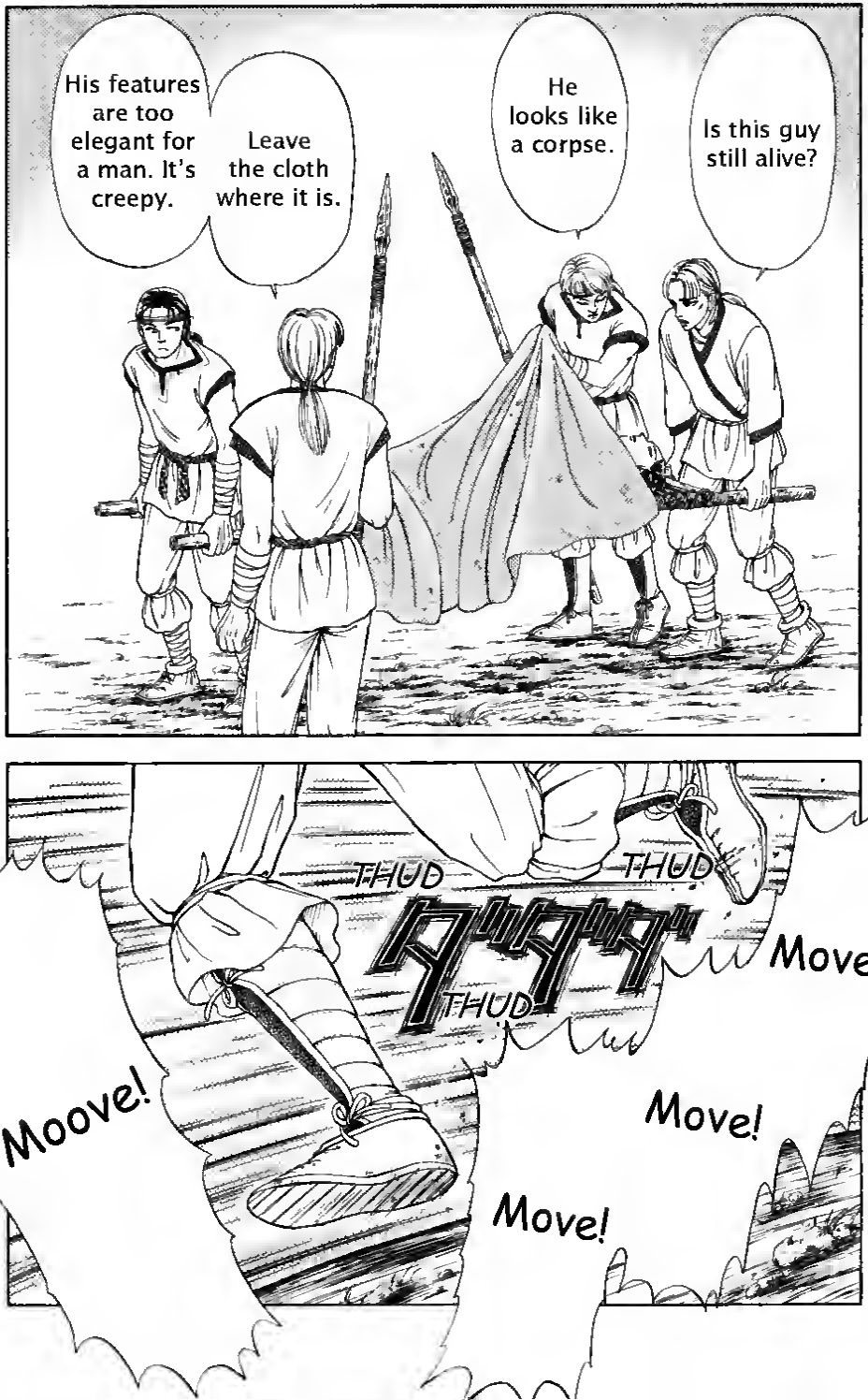
...or something...

What is it, Katsu-ra!?
Hm...
Misen, take a look.
What're you talking about?
I bet they're causing the pain. They're turning red.
There are these two lumps...
But...
It's almost completely healed...
The wound is already closed.
Lumps?

Misen ...
I was fine when I woke up... I think.
I don't have eyes on the back of my head, so who knows...
You didn't notice them when you were sleeping? They're huge...
There's some kind of mysterious life force wriggling around the lumps...
Lumps... on his back? Could he...
It's too early to tell...
Er, um...
M-Mi-sen!?


... Taka– ya!
I'm okay! It's me...
Katsura! Don't make that face.
STARE
What if it's...



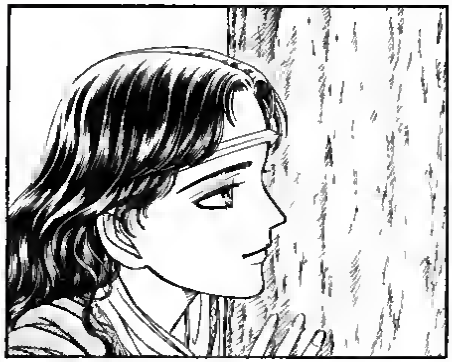

His features are too elegant for a man. It's creepy.
Leave the cloth where it is.
He looks like a corpse.
Is this guy still alive?
THUD
THUD
THUD
Move!
Moove!
Move!
Move!

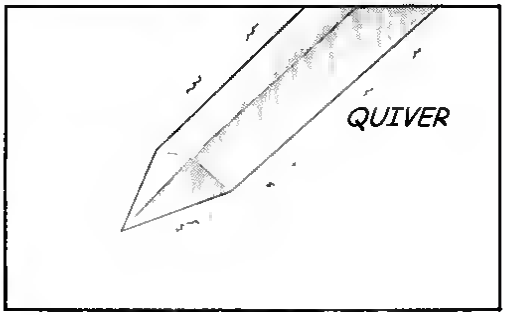
He's mine!
That idiot!
Somebody stop Kyoji!
He can't be stopped Captain!
I don't wanna die!

If you don't, I'll kill you too!
Wh-whoaa
Move!
WHUMP
FLING
Yoko! Look!

Die!

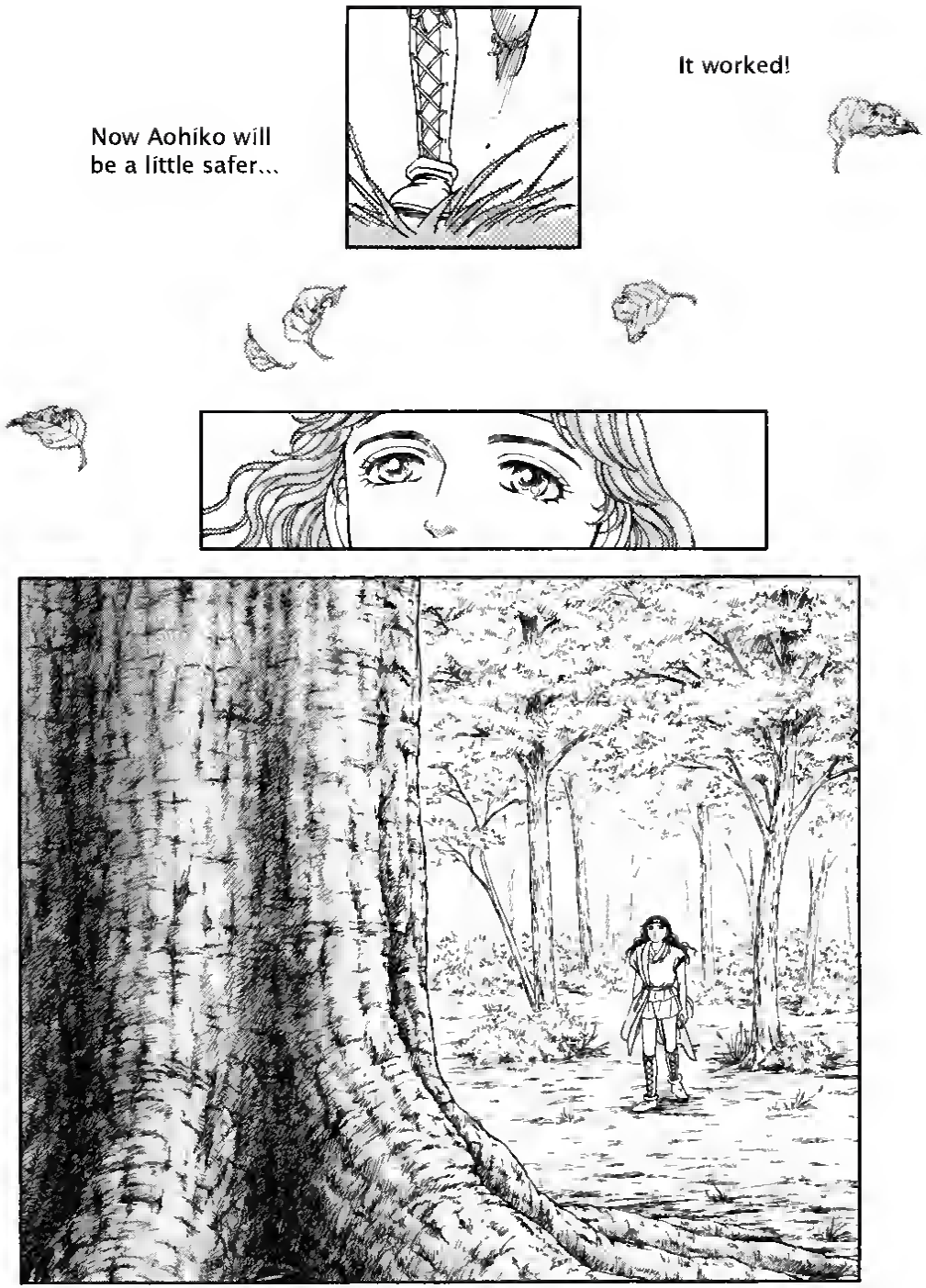
Kyoji!
Ugh
...
SKIP
ミムサミ

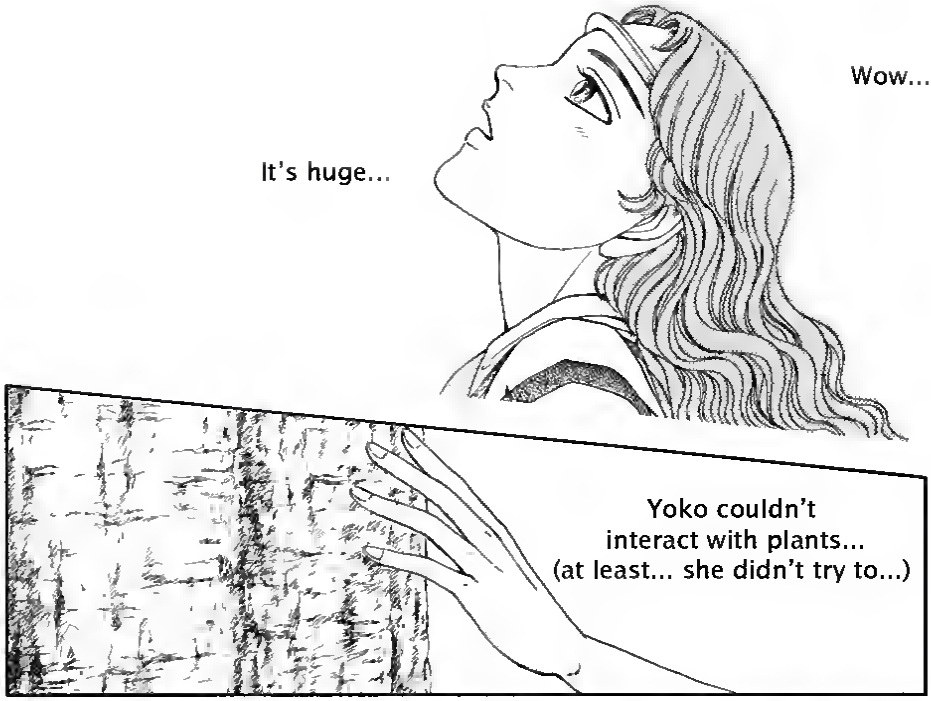



QUIVER

Listen! If anyone harms this man...
...you'll have to answer to me!

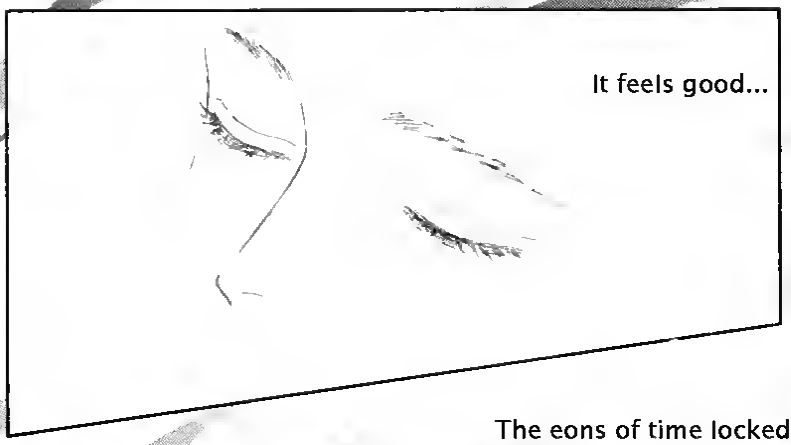
Got it!
I'll leave him in your care, Kyoji.
Look after him until Kiyu has no need for him.
Good grief ...
His fetish kicked in...
Idiot!
Y-Yoko-o...
Sorry.
He's just so pretty.
I can't kill him...


Now Aohiko will be a little safer...
It worked!


It's huge...
Wow...
Yoko couldn't interact with plants... (at least... she didn't try to...)

If I really am Toko, I should be able to...

I'll embrace the tree...
And the tree will embrace me back.
It's no accident that my life force interacts with the tree...
The world is covered with different kinds of life force, but they all come from the life force of trees... The life force of every living thing is a variation of it... At least, that's what I think...

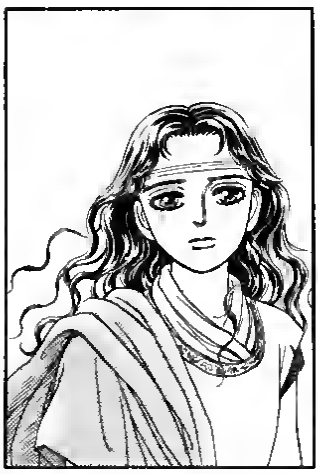


The eons of time locked inside this big tree...

The vast stream of time is flowing into me...

Thank you...
Toko's memories may never return in all their original detail...
...but you proved that I'm Toko...

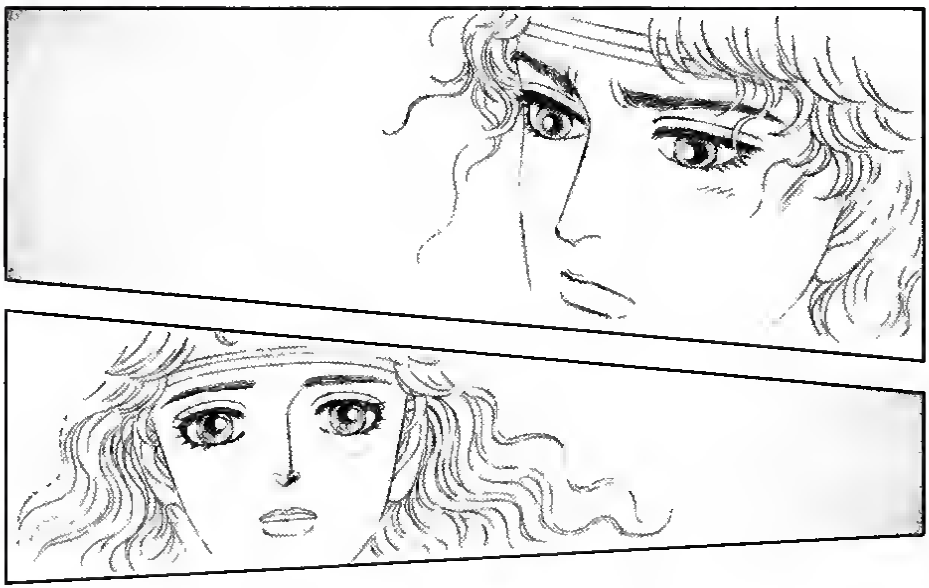
You really are twins.

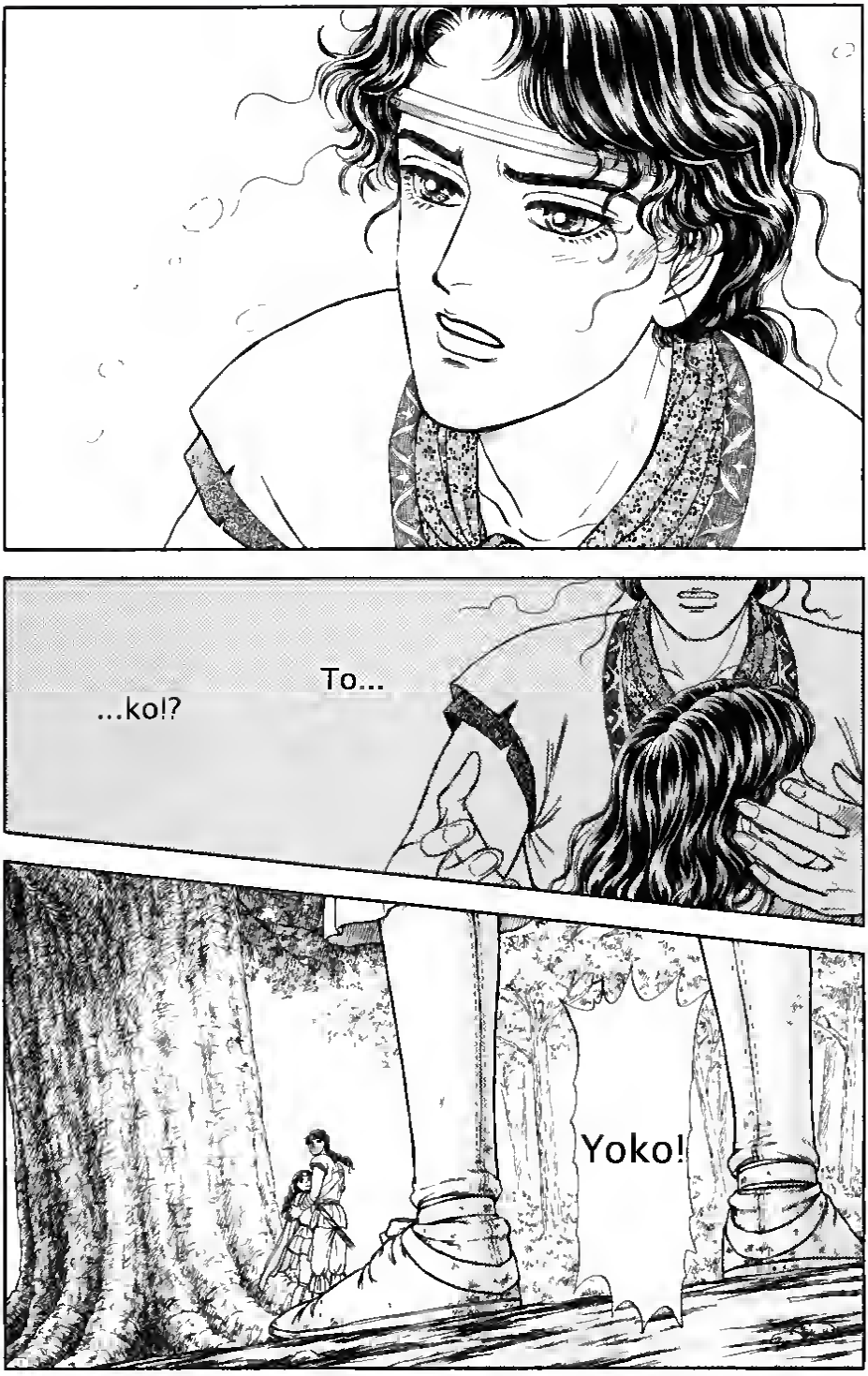


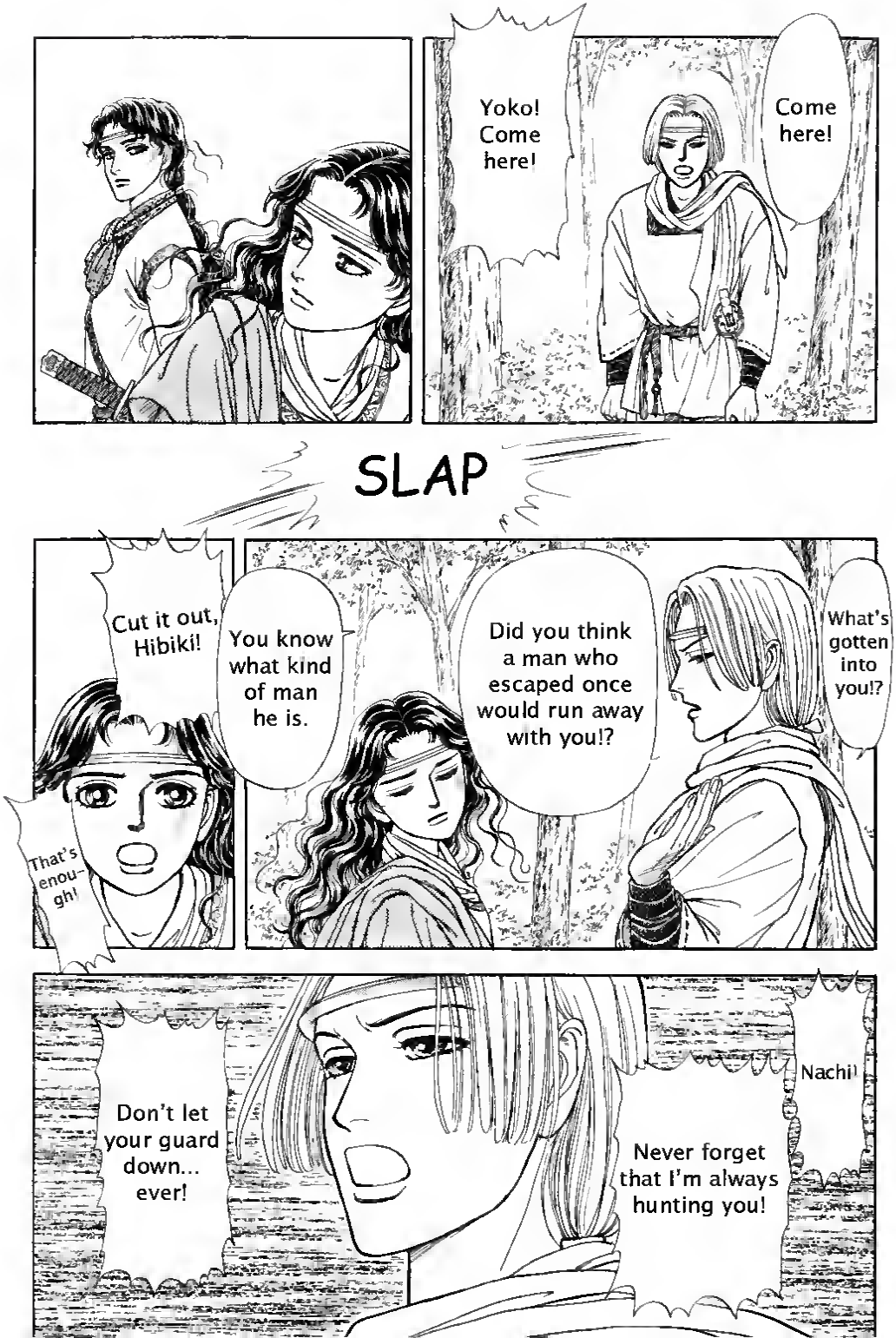
Ichirota...
Toko, your twin, did that a lot too...

...should have died
You...
...Ichirota...
...is the loneliest.
Of all the people I know...

He always keeps to himself...




To...
...ko!?
Yoko!

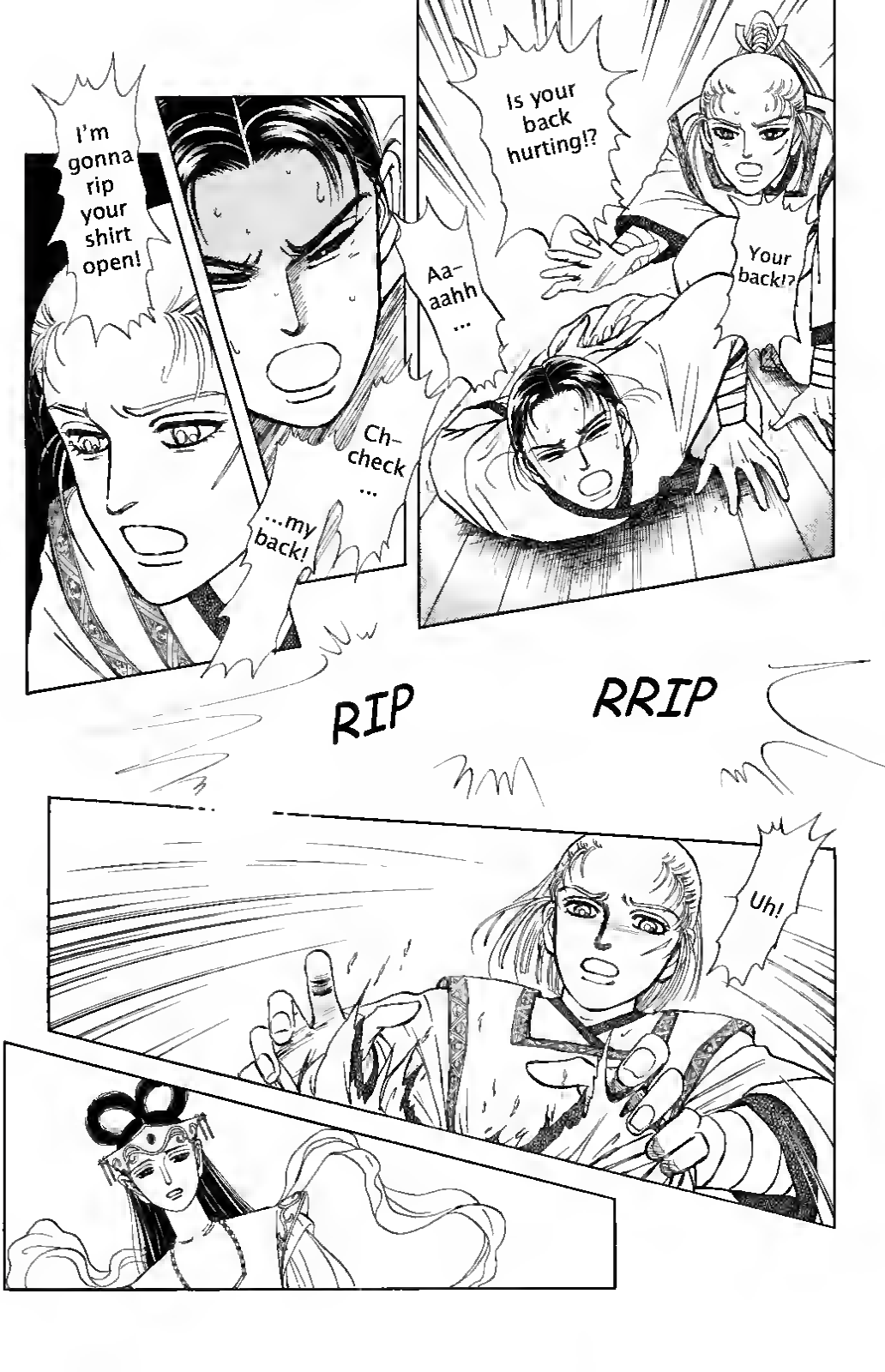

Yoko! Come here!
Come here!
SLAP
Cut it out, Hibiki!
You know what kind of man he is.
Did you think a man who escaped once would run away with you!?
What's gotten into you!?
That's enough!
Don't let your guard down... ever!
Nachi!
Never forget that I'm always hunting you!

...a moment's peace.
I won't let you have...
...how I want to spend my time...
That's actually...
I never...
...wanted peace and quiet...

No, thank y-... uh...
Taka-ya...
I am indebted to you for saving my life...
Thank you for your help.
My power was insuffi-cient...
I am sorry I failed Aohiko.

Taka-
ya!?
Uhh!
Lord Risson should return in a few days, so...
...
THUD

What is it!? Takaya!?
Ahh...
Eeaa-ahh!


I'm gonna rip your shirt open!
Ch-check ...
...my back!
Is your back hurting!?
Aa-aahh ...
Your back!?
RIP
RRIP
Uh!

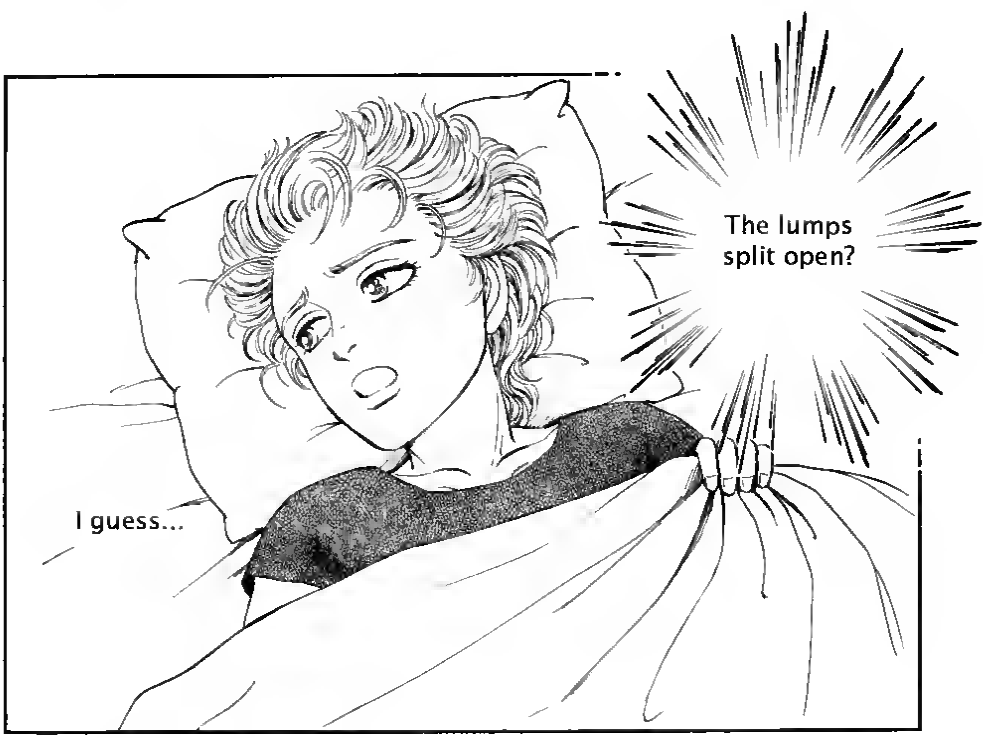
Oh...
The lumps on his back have split open!
M-Mi-sen!?
F-feathers!?
Ah... Uhh...

It came from the shrine, didn't it!?
That horrible scream...
Wh-what was that!?
Uhhh!
Uhh ...
Taka-ya!
Hang in there!
Taka-ya!
Your Holiness! Please put Takaya to sleep!

He'll die soon!
This pain is beyond what humans can endure!
...even if I use all the power I have left ...
I may not be able to suppress the pain...

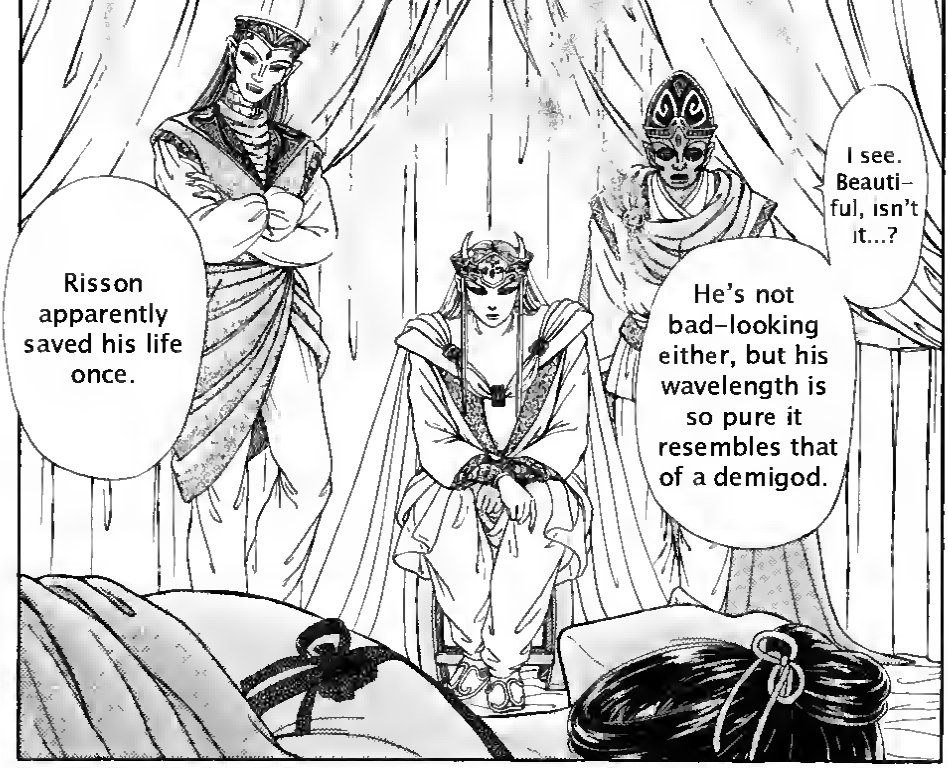
...his voice!

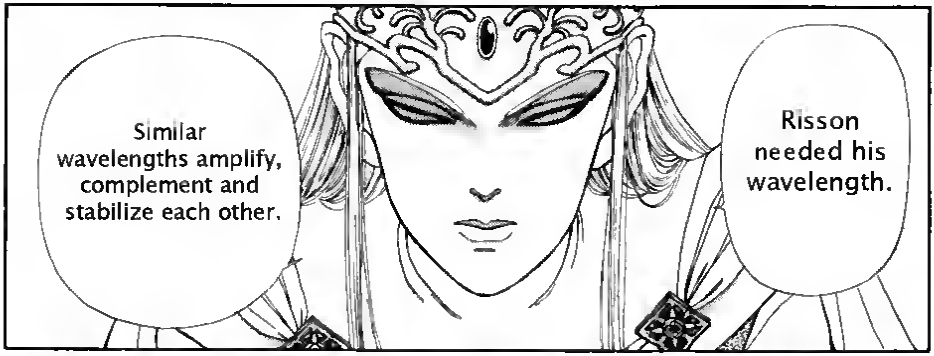
So... that was...



I guess he has Mamana blood...
...just like me!?
You're lucky you have a mane.

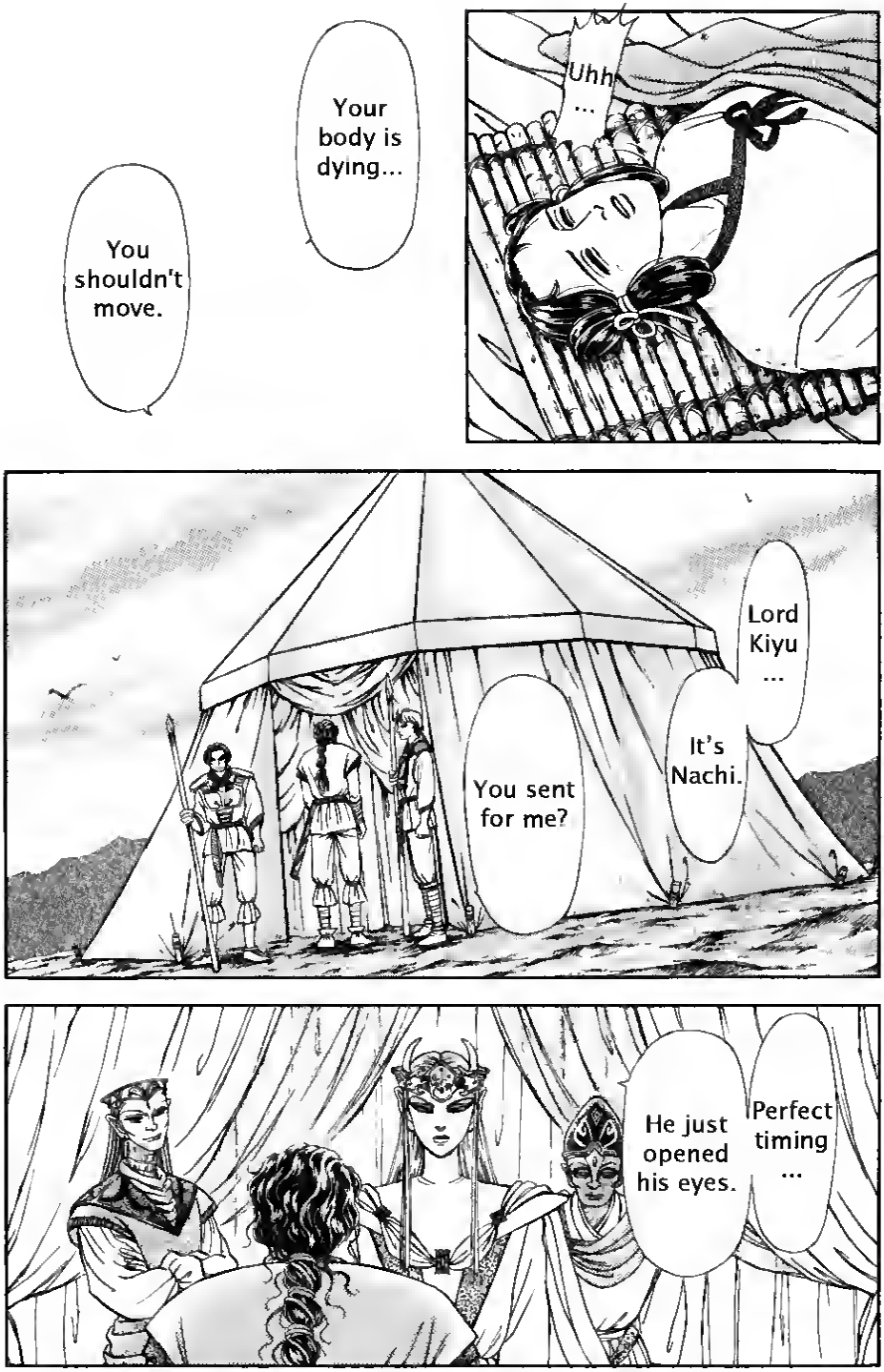
If you had been born with lumps on your back...
...you would have died when they split open...
...or they had suddenly appeared there...
He...
He's going to die...!
This time he won't survive!


Risson apparently saved his life once.
He's not bad-looking either, but his wavelength is so pure it resembles that of a demigod.
I see. Beautiful, isn't it...?


Similar wavelengths amplify, complement and stabilize each other.
Risson needed his wavelength.

I don't imagine he's going to share his wisdom or knowledge with us.
What is your plan?
Attuning this wavelength to ours seems impossible...

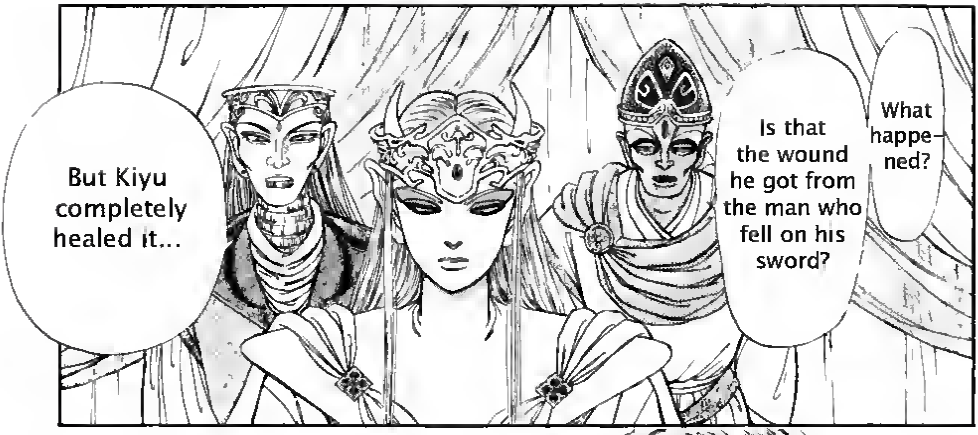
I am Kiyu, the Silver Horned God.


Uhh ...
Your body is dying...
You shouldn't move.
Lord Kiyu ...
It's Nachi.
You sent for me?
Perfect timing ...
He just opened his eyes.

Don't look at me...
...with those eyes...

SHINK
Nachi!
Pity yourself instead!
Ow!

Wh... what?
Uhh ...


But Kiyu completely healed it...
Is that the wound he got from the man who fell on his sword?
What happened?

What is this...
...tingling pain...

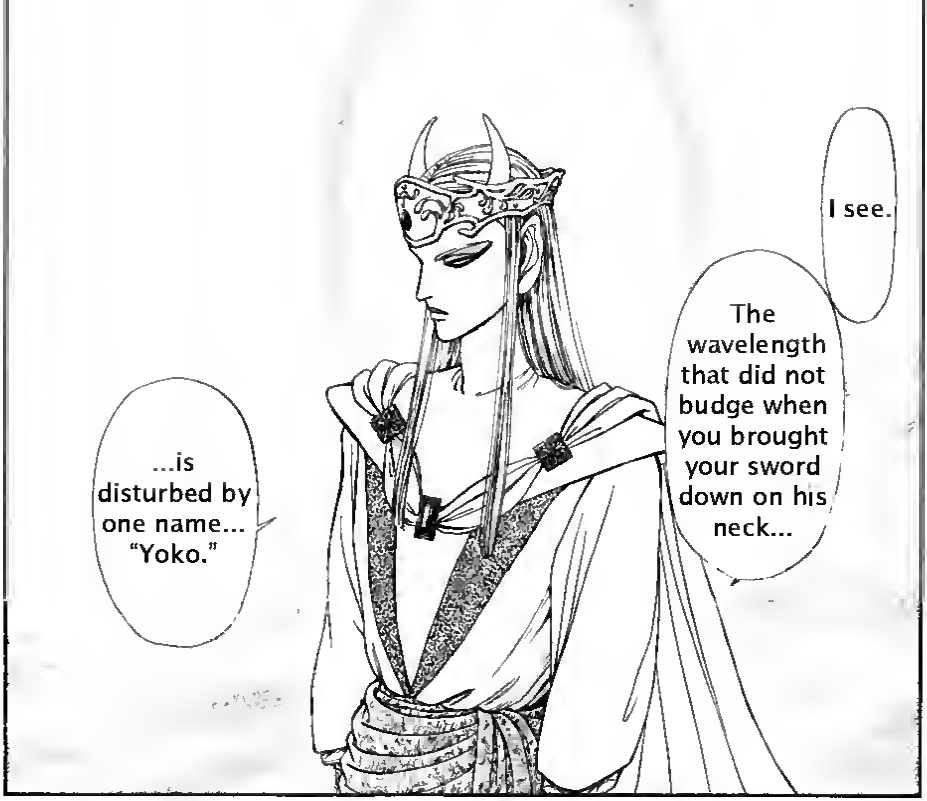
The human mind is truly mysterious...
...and unruly ...
...however many times it takes.
I'll heal it...
Lord Kiyu...

It indicates just how valuable this man is.
I didn't think someone as calm as you would fly into a rage like that.
I called you here because you know this man. I thought you might know his weaknesses too.
I had hoped to be of service to you.
Please forgive me.
There are no gaps in his wavelength for our demon-god auras to penetrate.
Do you know an effective way to extract his wisdom and knowledge?

If you slowly torture him and disturb his wavelength, he's sure to cave in...
My Lord, any human will abandon his pride when enough pain is inflicted.
He's never abandoned his faith in the gods that cannot be seen in all the years he's been with Risson.
It won't work...
A man who hasn't even put his faith in a benevolent demigod will not change because of pain alone.
...as we've always done...
But if there is no other way, it would be fun to torture him...

There is a way ...
Oh...
You can...
...use Yoko...

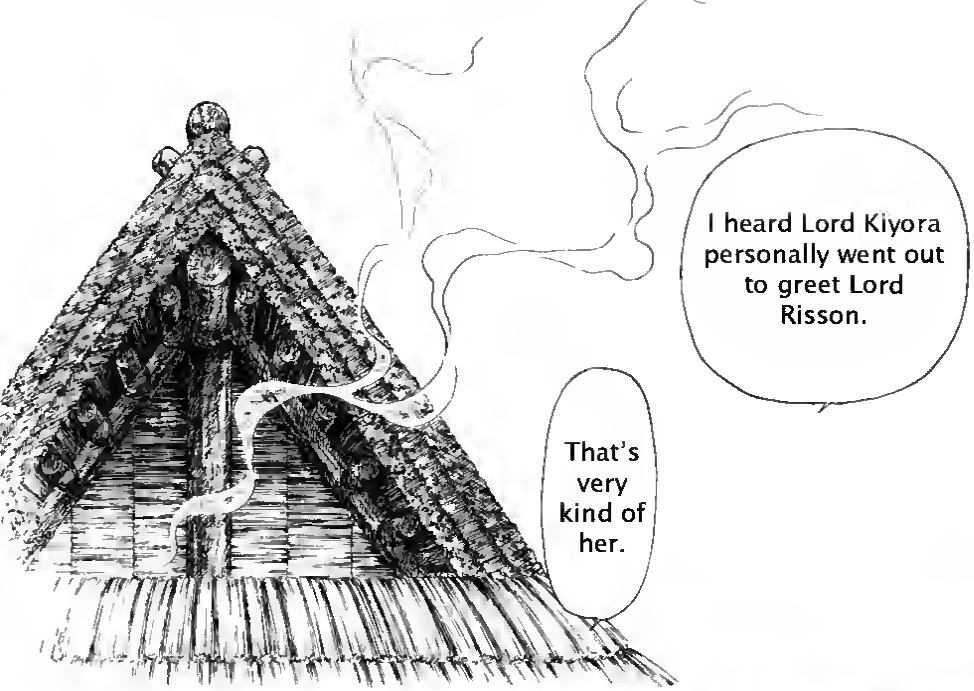
Simply threatening to do so would be enough.
All you need to do is inflict the torture he would receive on Yoko.
Toko...
This man and Yoko's dead twin had a close bond.
Did you stay for me?
Why would he care about her...
But wasn't it Yoko who killed the twin?
That's the kind of man he is.

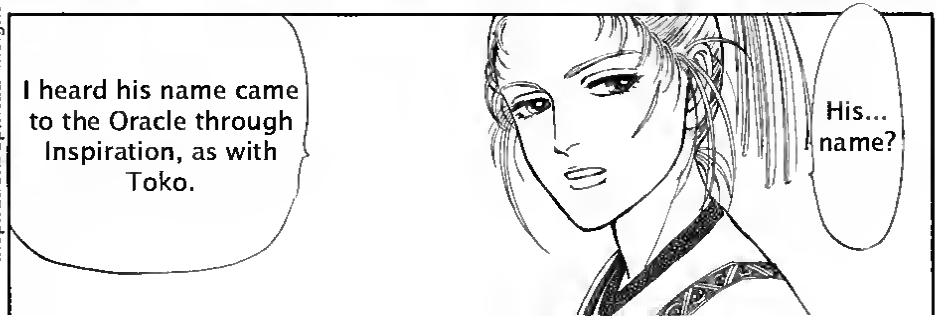

I see.
The wavelength that did not budge when you brought your sword down on his neck...
...is disturbed by one name... "Yoko."

If you resist, we'll punish Yoko in your place.
Will you comply?

CLANG
カ
No!?
Yes!?

From this day until the day you die...
...you will never be able to say no again...
Yes...





*Inspiration. Spiritual insight

What does it mean for a name to be given through Inspiration?
Just as I thou-ght...
...
A name given by Inspiration indicates the fate and future of the baby.
...are hawk wings?
So... the wings on Takaya's back...
...
...knows the meaning of a name given through Inspiration...
In many cases, though, not even the oracle herself...
They're similar to hawk wings...

I can't believe it even after seeing it with my own eyes ...
Who could have imagined this...
And no wonder
JOLT
Speaking of which, this boy has a mane on his back...
My name is Kai, not 'Boy.'
Are you pretending to sleep while eavesdropping again?
Boy!

FWIP
Quiet down.
Don't touch me!
I'm gonna take a look at your back!
Well, Kai...
SNIFF...
.. wake Takaya.
You're going to...
...an inevitable accident ...
This is fate... or perhaps I should say...
He's just been sleeping through Lord Kiyora's power.
What do you mean "still"?
Why is he still alive?
...

You know about Mamana?
No way, old man!
Are you a... Mamana?
Kai...
Mamana?
What is it...?
I've never heard of that ...
I'm not sure myself, but according to legend...
They are said to be an exceptional people with unique forms...
...the ancestors of the Mamana traveled here from the great continents that were reduced to dust...

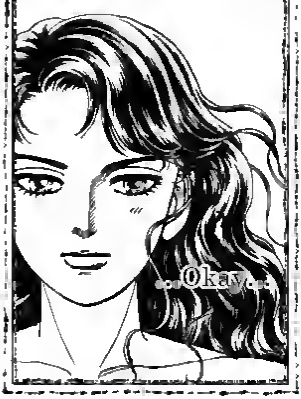
Over half of the children are born with a mishmash of human and animal features.
"Excep-tional"!?
"Unique forms"!?
Like that guy...
Most of the ones who look normal go through a sudden transformation and die when they reach adulthood.
They die when the lumps split open...
Haven't you heard about that, old man?
It's the fate of Mamana ...
There's nothing you can do to save him.
...why... does Takaya have Mamana blood...?
But...
...

He must have inherited it from his father or mother.
Followers of the gods that cannot be seen generously accept people from outside their tribe.
The ones born with a human appearance usually leave the Mamana.
They want normal children.
HEH!
What's the point in abandoning your Mamana identity if the blood still acts up like this generations later.
Every last one of them should be destroyed!

Don't be a little brat!
Watch your mouth.
What, would you have a kid with that guy!?
He's burdened with this fate from the day he's born!
Put yourself in the kid's shoes!
...have been bathed in moonlight from the moment I was born
Uuuu

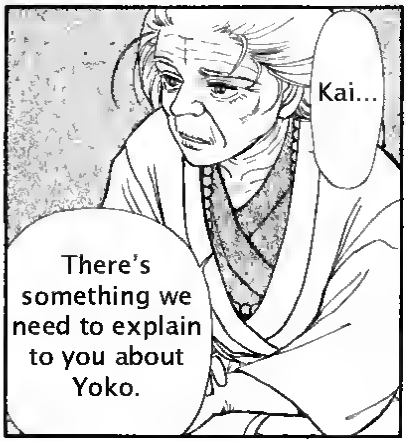
How ...
...am I wrong?
No, you're wrong!
There are children who should have never been born...
Unh ...
Just die already!
Die! Give up and die!
Ta... Takaya ...

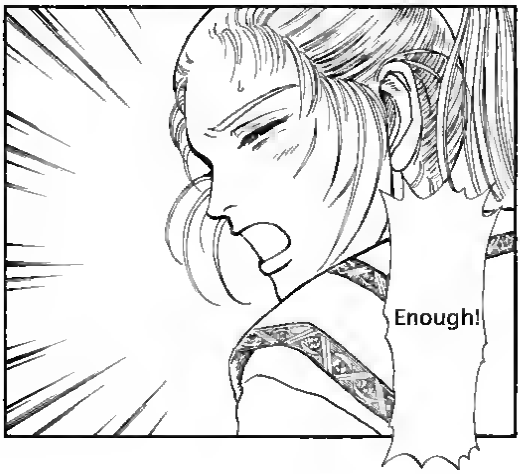
"That guy"!?
You share the same blood!
How can you say that!?
So what!
That guy said Takaya would keep trying to kill Yoko as long as he lived.
The guy who has now betrayed Risson and returned to Lord Kiyu...
Nachi the traitor...

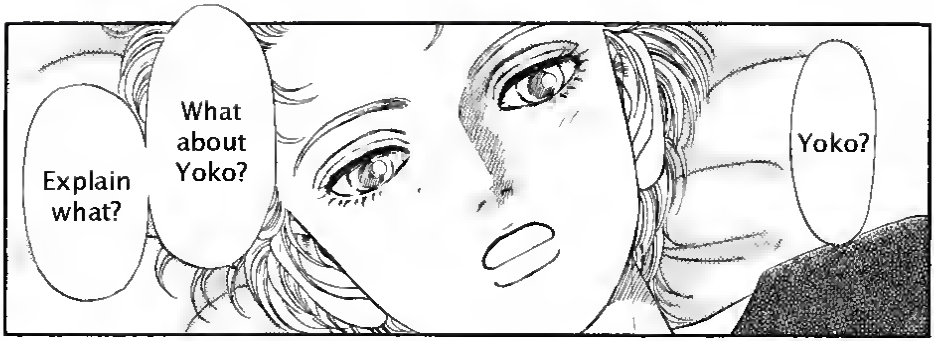


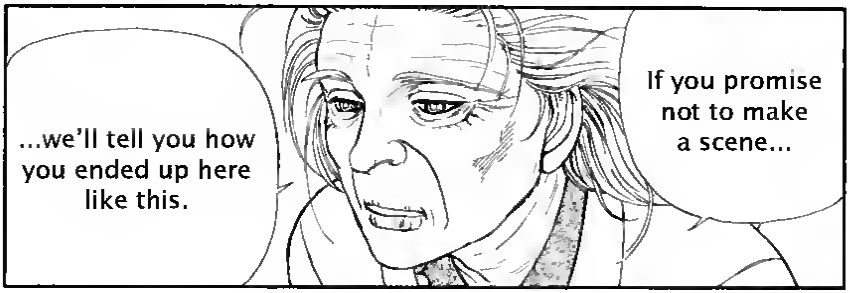
Ichirota...

Oh... Ichirota...






Yoko?
What about Yoko?
Explain what?

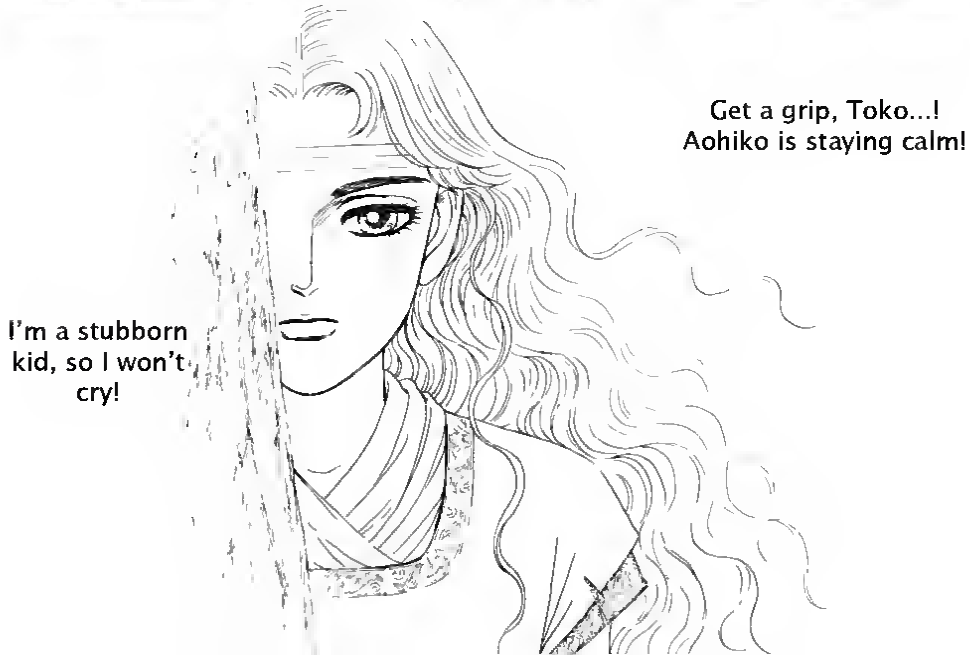

If you promise not to make a scene...
...we'll tell you how you ended up here like this.

I don't ...
...really want to know...

We'll turn right in a little bit...
Straight...
Straight ahead...
Now I can't see your pretty face...
The Captain was mean too, putting a blindfold over your eyes...
You're still shaky, aren't ya.
Lord Kiyu didn't heal you properly because you're a prisoner.
Discipline him! Discipline him!
That one's also more violent than he looks.
Does this one have a black mane? Strip him down like Kai so we can see.
Hey Kyoji! Did you find another exotic animal?
SHUT IT!

At least... he's alive...
And others as keen as you to keep a beautiful man like that as a pet.
There are many who'd like to make him pay for what he did to their friends.
Kyoji! Be careful not to get killed with him in your sleep!
You touch this man and you're dead!
Listen up!
SKID
A-Aohiko!
WOBBLE
NO...

To the right?
Don't mind what they say. I won't let anything bad happen to you.
Are you okay?
S-sorry!
Keep dragging him, Kyoji!
Serves him right!
STARE
Kyoji will protect Aohiko even better than I could...
Sorry for the trouble ...
What a voice! I'm gonna be putty in his hands
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
Y-yeah ...


Get a grip, Toko...! Aohiko is staying calm!
I'm a stubborn kid, so I won't cry!

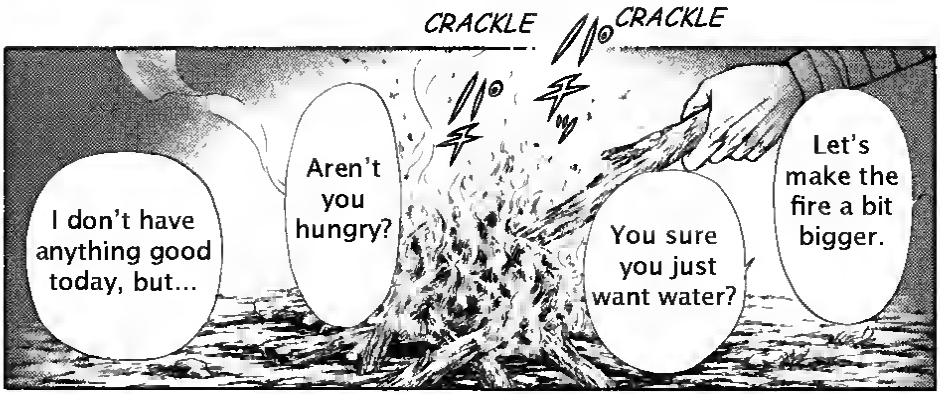
It's revol-ting!
'Doing as he's told out of concern for you'... I can't stand it.
That hypoc-rite!
He's using you to save face. It's just a convenient excuse.
He was just concerned about himself.
He's wrong...
When you peel away people's masks, they reveal their true, ugly faces...
Pride is just a facade. A mask.
I'll strip away his pride and make him beg for his life.
I'll get him to admit it one of these days.

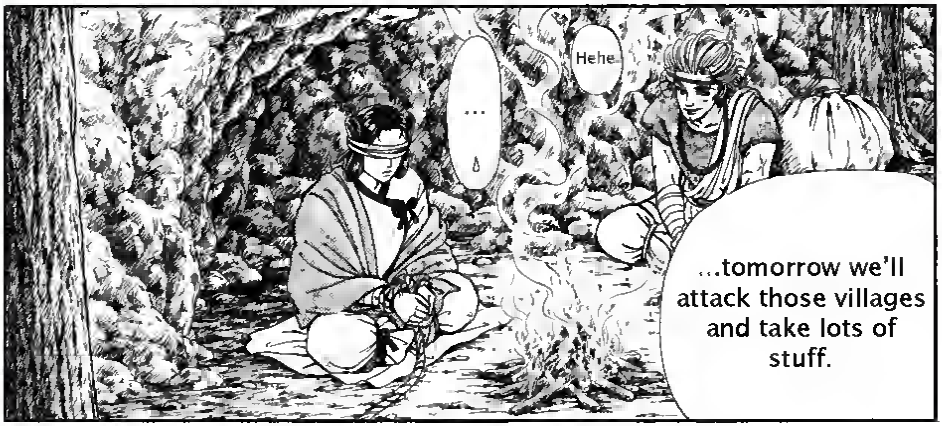
Toko...

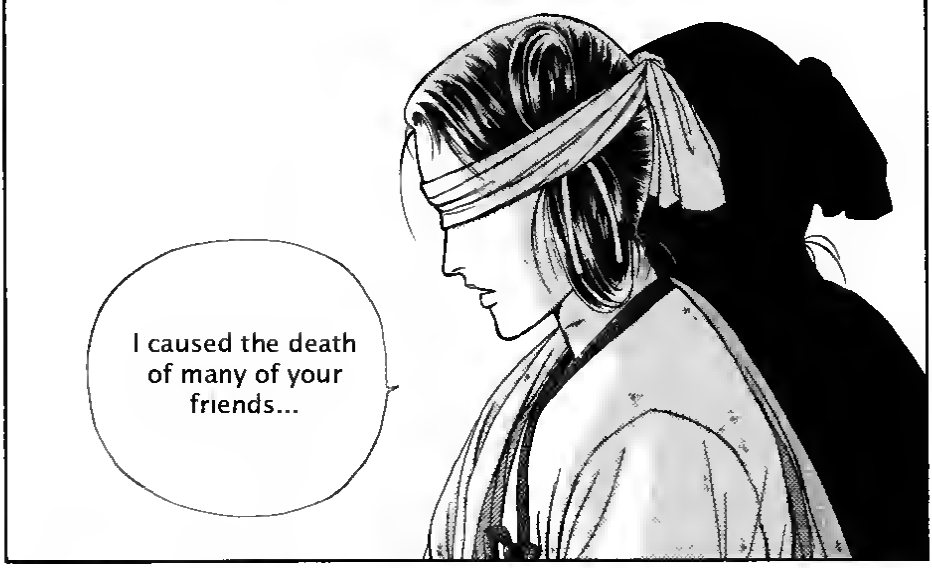
But I...

It brings back many painful memories...

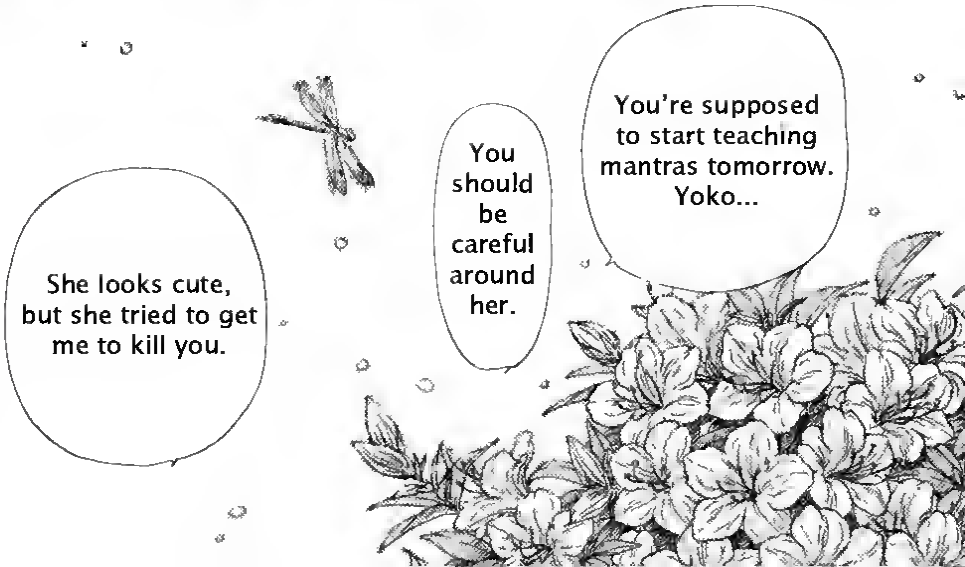
Yoko's memories cannot deny what he said...


CRACKLE
CRACKLE
I don't have anything good today, but...
Aren't you hungry?
You sure you just want water?
Let's make the fire a bit bigger.




I caused the death of many of your friends...

I need to warn you though...
...?
It's okay!
Beautiful people can get away with anything.


You're supposed to start teaching mantras tomorrow. Yoko...
You should be careful around her.
She looks cute, but she tried to get me to kill you.

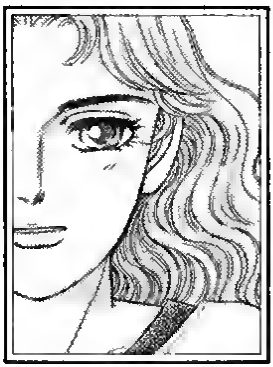
...she hates me now... SNIFF

I couldn't go through with it, so...

...

You got this man to protect me...

...despite feeling so alone...



Toko...

I'll have to retie you a bit.

Sorry...

Uh huh ...

Uh ...

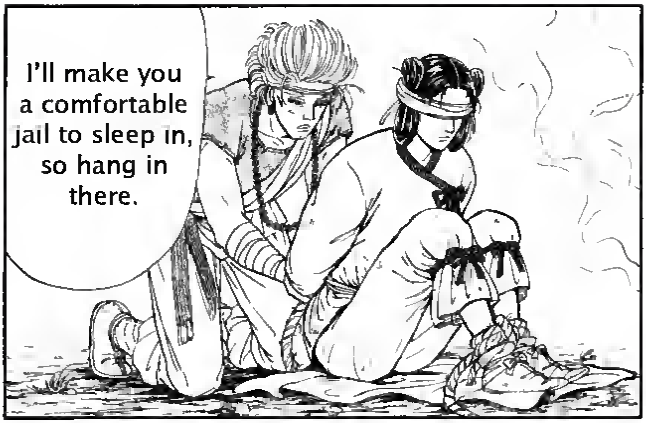
Is it alright if I lie down?

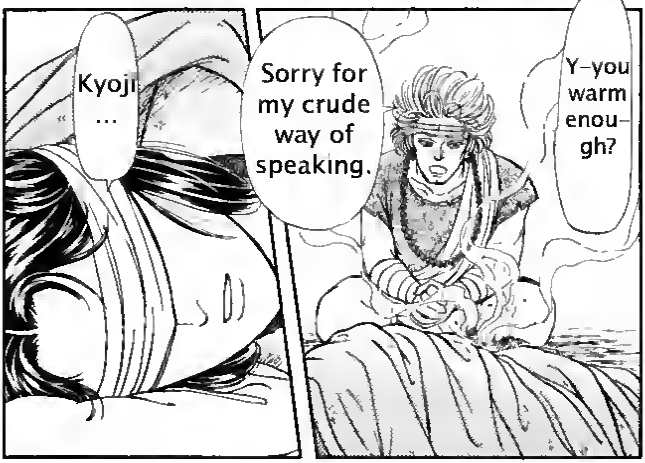
...and scary ...

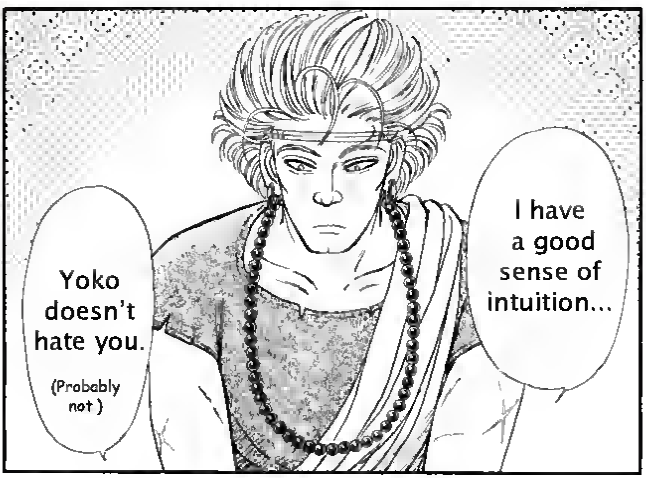
The Captain is cautious ...

I'm really sorry.

The Captain ordered me to bind your feet and tie your hands behind your back when you sleep.


I'll make you a comfortable jail to sleep in, so hang in there.


Kyoji…
Sorry for my crude way of speaking.
Y-you warm enou-gh?

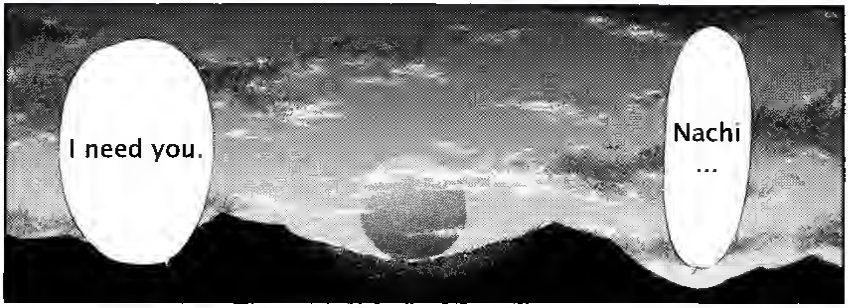

Yoko doesn't hate you.
(Probably not)
I have a good sense of intuition…

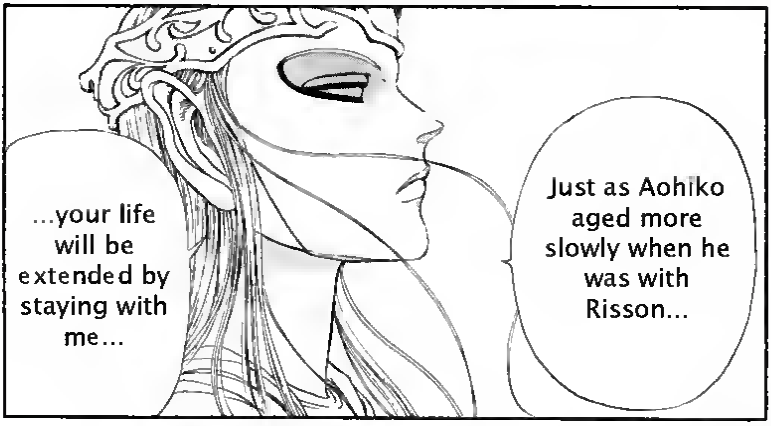
Ichirota!
The scar will never disappear!
That wound is proof I believed in you to the end!
...you risked your life to put a curse on me...
So, Chief...
Lord Kiyu!
Does it still hurt?

It's a beauti-ful sunset, isn't it?
The moment between evening and night is my favorite time.
Lord Kiyu...
Would you...
...hand over Aohiko to me someday?

...
Do you hate him that much?
If that is what you wish...
...if it's hate... or something else...
I'm not sure...
Not to gain or lose anything...
Aohiko and the woman who loves him...
I just have to kill them...

...I have to kill them...
However ugly a thing it may be...
...or die...
...but to live...
...true to myself.
...to remain...
There are things that must be done...
...no matter how ugly they may be.
Yes...


I need you.
Nachi ...


...your life will be extended by staying with me...
Just as Aohiko aged more slowly when he was with Risson...

Stay near me.
It won't be that long...
I just need you for the duration of the extension ...

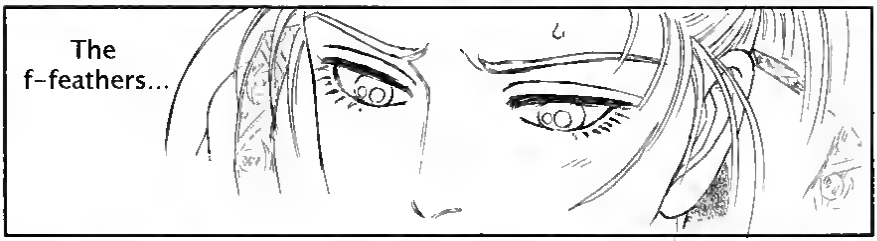
I am yours, Lord Kiyu, for as long as I live.

You expect me to believe that bare-faced lie!?
That she's not really Yoko...!?
Just her body is Yoko's, and her soul is Toko's!?
Toko must have tried to prevent you from noticing...
...but did you really have no idea?

Toko could have run away with Takaya if she had wanted to, but she went back to save you.
It was Yoko's memories, though, that made her go back.
It's like saying Yoko doesn't exist anymore!
Don't say "Yoko's memo-ries"!
It's okay...
Don't cry... He's so cute.
Sigh...
I understand if you don't want to believe it...
She's Yoko!
Not Toko!

Uhh ...
A- augh ...
Taka- ya!
Katsu- raa...

...hap... pening... to... my back...?
Wh... What's ...
I'm right here, Takaya!


The f-feathers...

...-.-.are growing...
Unh ...
The lumps ...
...have split open...

Lord Kiyora's power must have run out...
Taka-ya!
Aaugh...
Hang in there! Do your best until Lord Risson returns!
G-good grief!
Taka-ya!!
Taka-ya!
Uh-hh!

Misen! I can't bear to see him in so much pain!
Is...
Is there anything we can do?
I'll chant a mantra for easing pain.
Without a yang stone, though, it will just make him feel a little bit better...
He's going to die anyway.
You should... put him out of his misery...
Don't be ridiculous!
I said it for his sake.
UHH

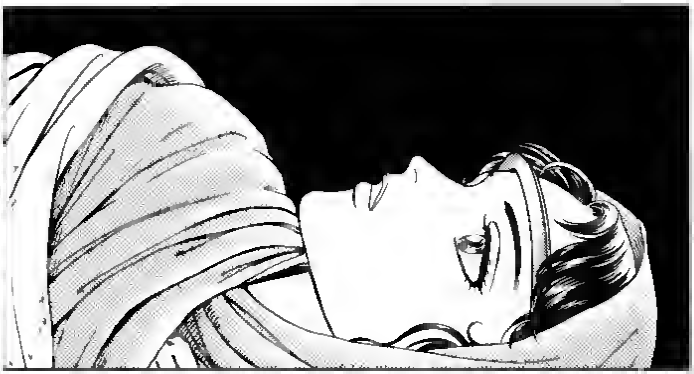
Ka...
Ka-
tsura
...
Please
...
That is what the Mamana have done
...
I...
feel
like
I'm
gon-
na...
...lose
cont-
rol.
...h-
hold
me
down.
...and tear everything apart!

I'll stay here like this!
I won't let go until you tell me to.
I...
...can't... d-die until...
...I save ...
A true...
He's a Mamana...
Toko and...
... Aohi-ko!
...Mamana.

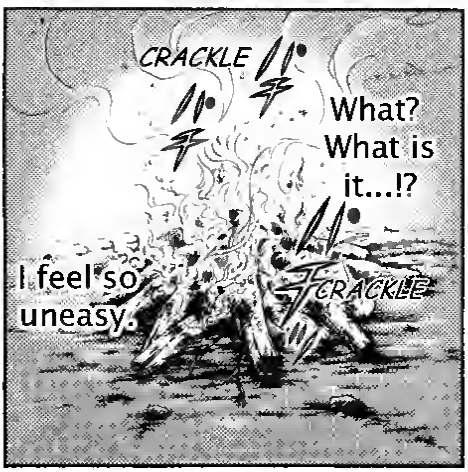
To...
ko...
PANT
PANT
Toko!
UHHH...
Hang in there, Takaya!

The people of Isana are...
That's right... They're a tribe of the gods that cannot be seen...

Come on, Takaya!
Come on!
Don't die!



Takaya!?


CRACKLE
What? What is it...!?
I feel so uneasy.
CRACKLE

You called me!?

Yoko
...
You seem so far away...
I wonder if it will work...
I–I'm fine!
Are you cold?
I can't do it... Hibiki would notice right away...
He's been watching Yoko... constantly these days...
My body will look like a corpse when my spirit leaves...
Tomorrow I'll prepare a shelter... Try to get some sleep...

...than repeat it a hundred times in my heart...
I'd rather say "Takaya"... once out loud...
Takaya...!
Takaya!
Takaya!
...out loud...
I want to say "Takaya"...

As you may know, mantras are taught through one-on-one voice and life force training...

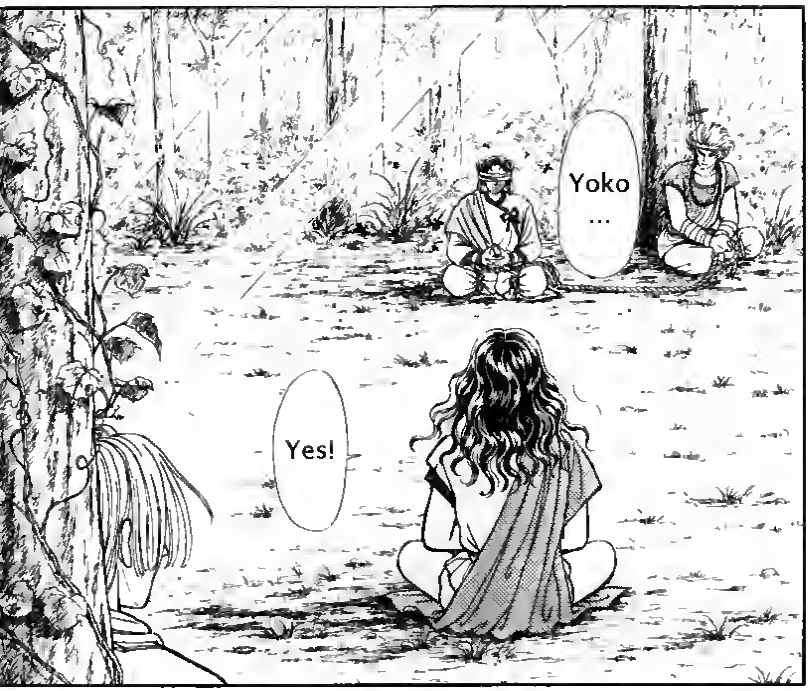
If there are others nearby, the life force is weakened, hampering the instruction.

I'll assign someone to remain with each of you.

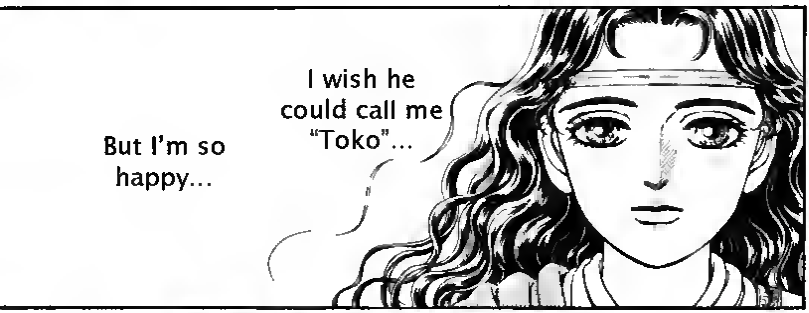
We can't leave you alone with Yoko.

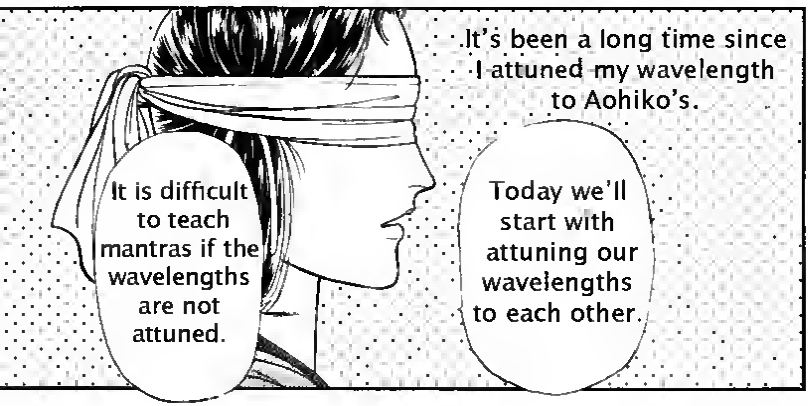
It may take longer... but I'm sure it's not impossible.

It is a weapon stronger than swords.
Hibiki! Make sure the yin stone never falls into that man's hands!
I'm well aware!
Yes sir...
...and the mantras that protect against them.
Yoko! Learn the yin stone mantras as soon as possible...
I hear he's a formidably clever man, so we'll leave it on for now.
He doesn't need eyes to teach mantras.
We can take the blindfold off, can't we?
Cap-tain ...
He wasn't healed completely...
And his face is still pale...
He has cuts on his neck...

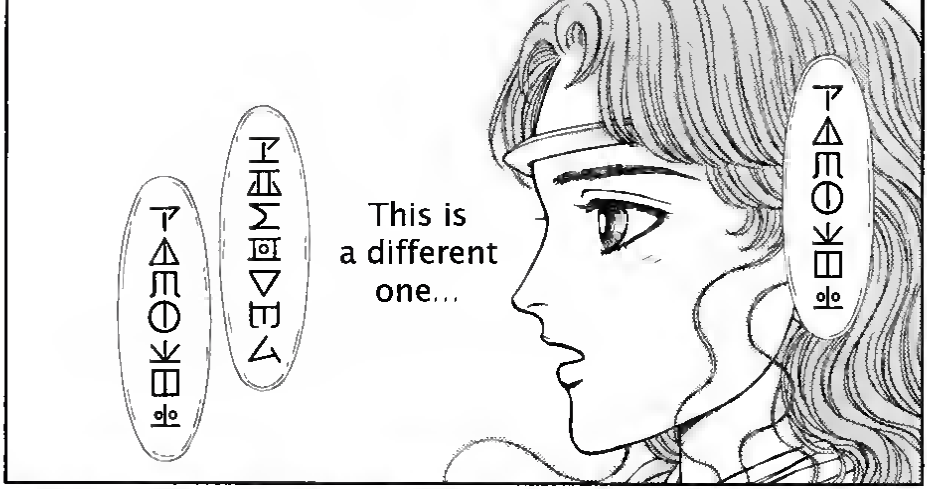


If Aohiko doesn't regain his strength, we won't be able to escape...




It's been a long time since I attuned my wavelength to Aohiko's.
It is difficult to teach mantras if the wavelengths are not attuned.
Today we'll start with attuning our wavelengths to each other.

But... I shouldn't attune it too quickly...
I want to see Aohiko's face...
This is a basic mantra for gathering the energy of the fields and mountains.
If you know it, follow along with me.
ナウボウ ヒロ ウン
ナウボウ ヒロ ウン
ナウボウ ヒロ ウン
ナウボウ ヒロ ウン


아옴미야훔
This is a different one...
구루베이훔
아옴미야훔

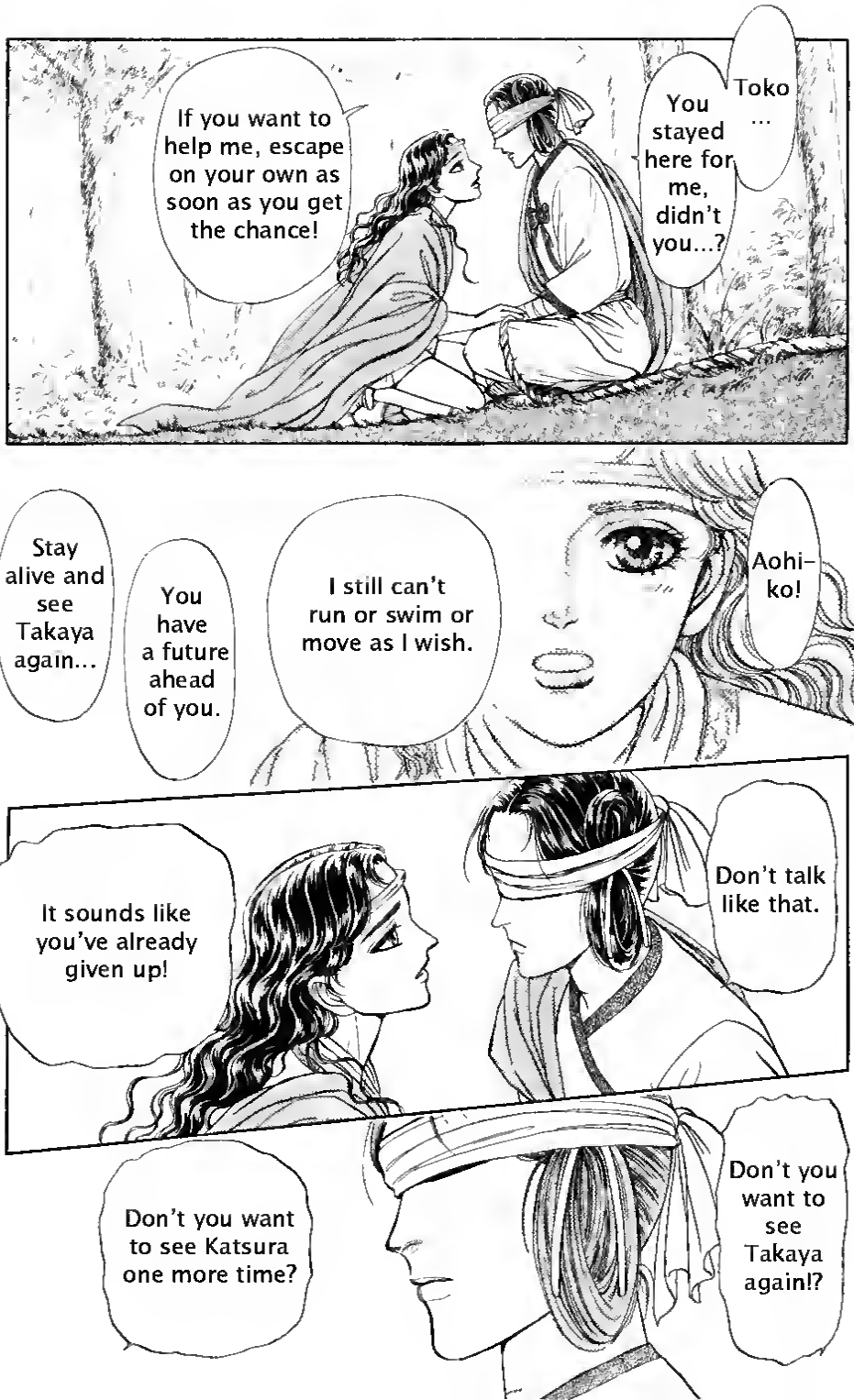
This mantra...

It's...
구루베이훔

ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実
ナサムの木の実

ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
YAWN..!
ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
It's...
ㅏㅅㅁㅇㅛㅁㅁ
...a sleep-inducing mantra...
...flowers, trees...
...for people, animals, birds...

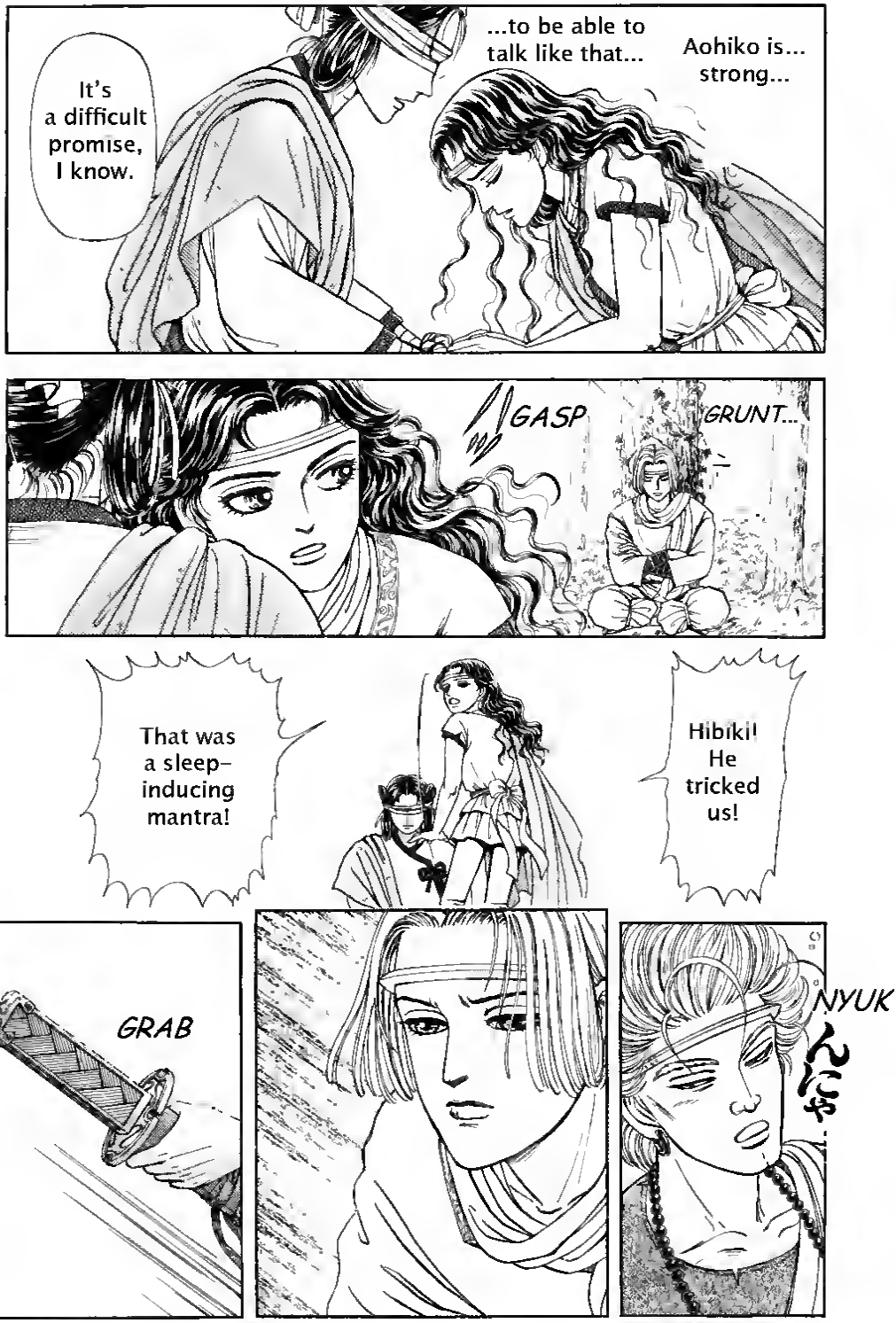
Aohi-ko!
Toko...
I'll untie the ropes ...
Don't bo-ther.
They'll wake up soon.
I just wanted to tell you something.

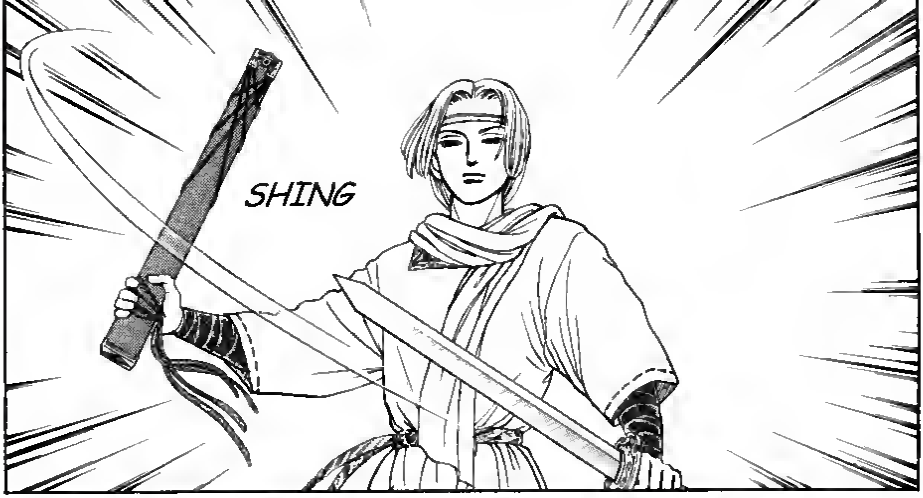

If you want to help me, escape on your own as soon as you get the chance!
You stayed here for me, didn't you...?
Toko ...
Stay alive and see Takaya again...
You have a future ahead of you.
I still can't run or swim or move as I wish.
Aohi-ko!
It sounds like you've already given up!
Don't talk like that.
Don't you want to see Katsura one more time?
Don't you want to see Takaya again!?

Don't ask questions you already know the answers to...
...
Answer me!
I'm talking about the possibility and probability for escaping.
Once we have the yin stone and a Torii, we can escape together!
I'll find the yin stone.
Then let's wait patiently for our opportunity!
We'll cross that bridge ...
...when we get to it!
Neither of us will be able to escape!
But if they realize you're not Yoko before then, they'll bind your hands too.

...
Toko
...
But promise me one thing.
That's my Toko.
Stubborn as always...
... leave me behind
If I forget ...
...if I stop responding when you call me...
...when that time comes ...
...who you are...

I don't have much...
...time left...
Uh...
Under-stand?
Put yourself in my shoes.
Would you want Takaya or Katsura to see you like that...?
Being left behind is my only consolation ...


It's a difficult promise, I know.
...to be able to talk like that...
Aohiko is... strong...
GASP
GRUNT...
That was a sleep-inducing mantra!
Hibiki! He tricked us!
GRAB
NYUK


SHING

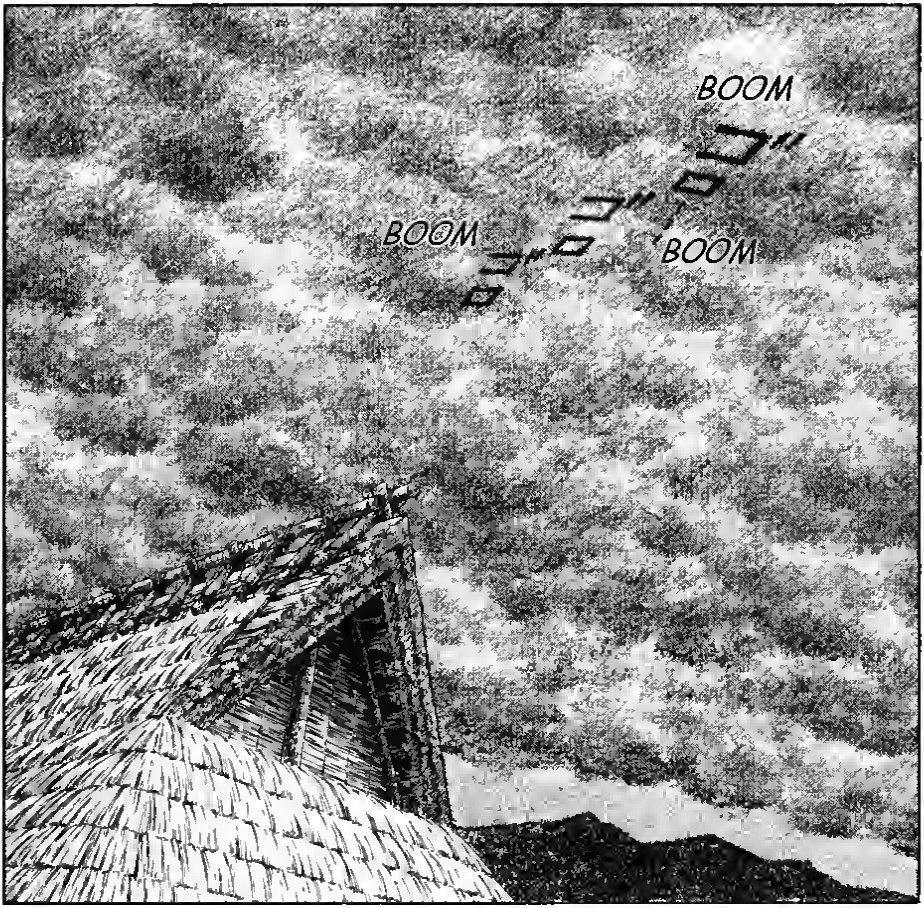
SLAP

He's going to beat Aohiko with the scabbard!

Don't think you can fool me!
It might work on some people, but it won't work on me!

Stop, Yoko!
Leave it, Hibiki! We don't have time to waste!
Sorry, Aohiko...
You had no intention of escaping, did you!
Why did you deceive us!?

We can cut one off to deter you from coming up with any more rash ideas.
You don't seem to need feet to teach mantras either.
It wasn't enough time to do anything!
You and Kyoji were only sleeping for a few seconds.
WHACK
That may have been this man's goal.
I'm not getting into an argument with you.
You think I'm gonna let you get away with that!?
...the greater the danger...
The longer we stay...
You're right... Aohiko...


BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

Thank you.
Go ahead and have them rest.
I'm sorry... Everyone... has gone hoarse...

...he no longer has the strength to fight the pain...
As you can see...
...Takaya...?
And...
...the wings consume Takaya as they grow...
It's as if...
...we might be able to...
Misen... if we cut off the wings...
Oh...!

Like I said, there's nothing you can do!
Stop!
Why make him suffer any longer!?
He put up a good fight!
I don't want to let him go...

He's a... good guy...
FLASH
... ground's rumb- ling!
Th- the ...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

CREAK
Katsu-ra...
RUMBLE
Taka-ya!
RUMBLE
Get... out!
It's... going to collap-se...
RUMBLE
Wh-when he was about to die in the battle...
...a big tree nearby split right in half.
RUMBLE

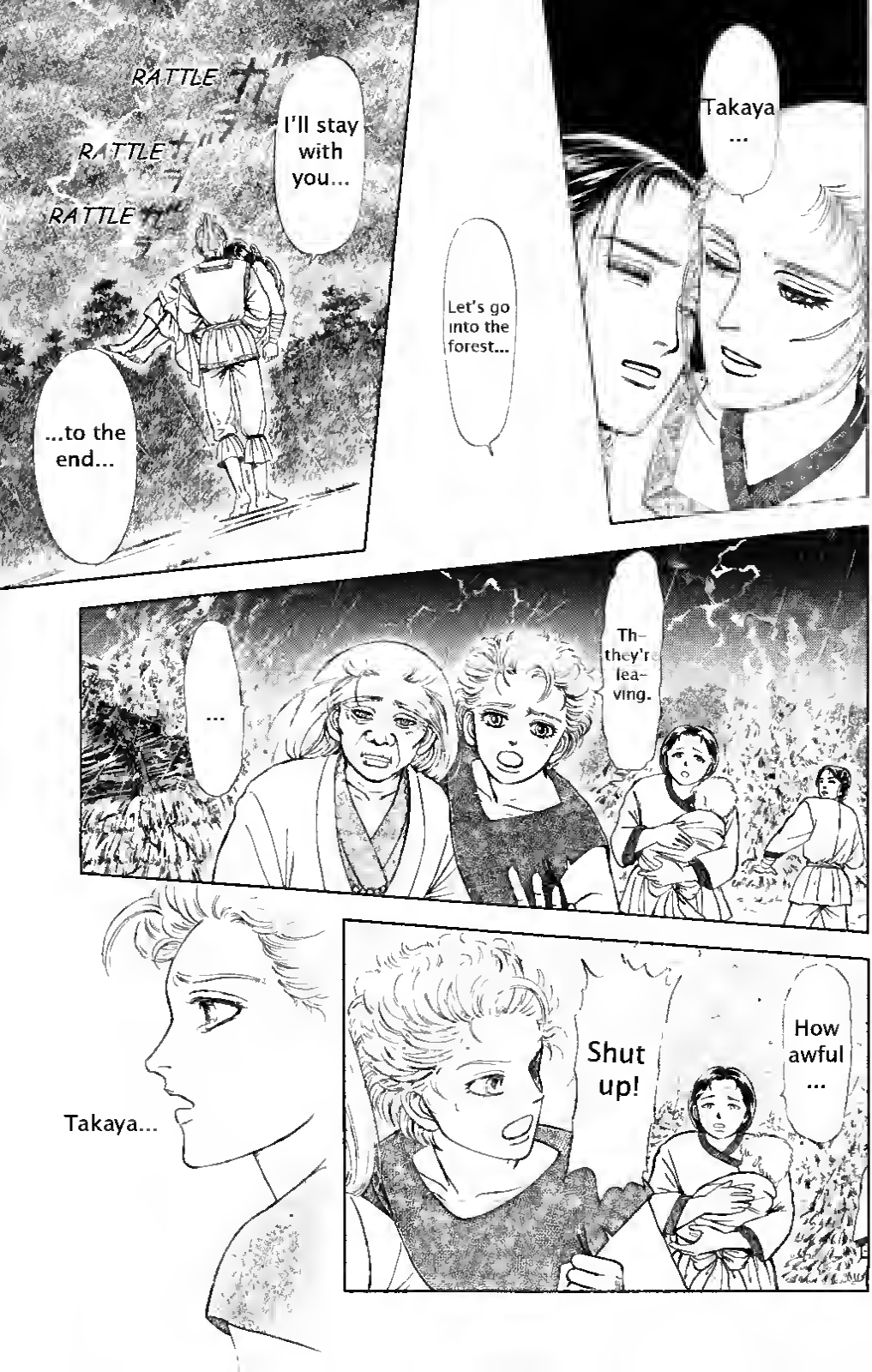
GROAN
Ahh...
Get out!
CREAK
CREEAK
Kai! Hold onto me!
Leave me!
Taka-ya!
Please. You don't think I can carry you!?

FSSSH
SNAP
SNAP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Earth-
quake!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Wh-
hoa!
Ah-
hh!

It's Takaya! Takaya's causing it...
Kai!?
It suddenly started raining then too...
Ka- tsura ...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
Don't be ridiculous!
Finish ... me off with ...
...your own... hands.
RUMBLE RUMBLE

It's on fire!
I don't have... any...
... con- trol...
... over... it...
... because of... me...
But it's...
...pro- bably ...
CRA KLE

FSSSH
Ah-hh!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Waah!


RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
I'll stay with you...
...to the end...
Takaya ...
Let's go into the forest...
...
Th- they're lea- ving.
How awful ...
Shut up!
Takaya...

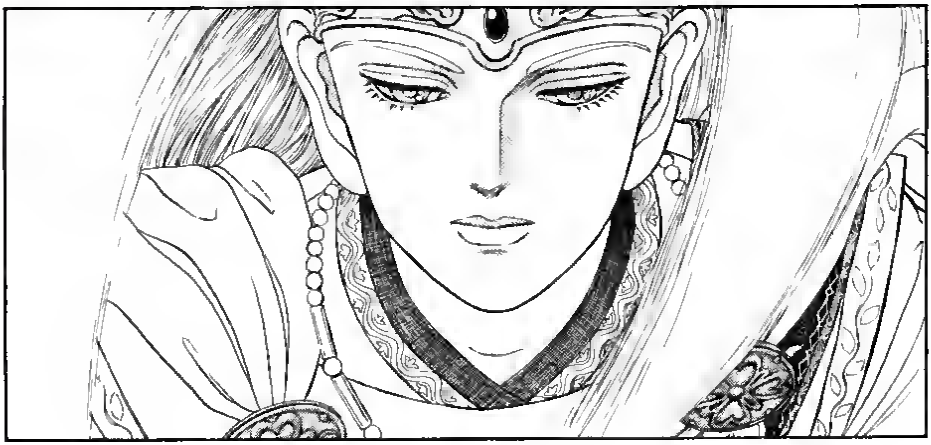
ZING
What are you... talking about.
...it's you, Katsura...
I'm glad ...
ZING
I said ...
RIP
SNAP
I'm glad... it's you... Katsura.

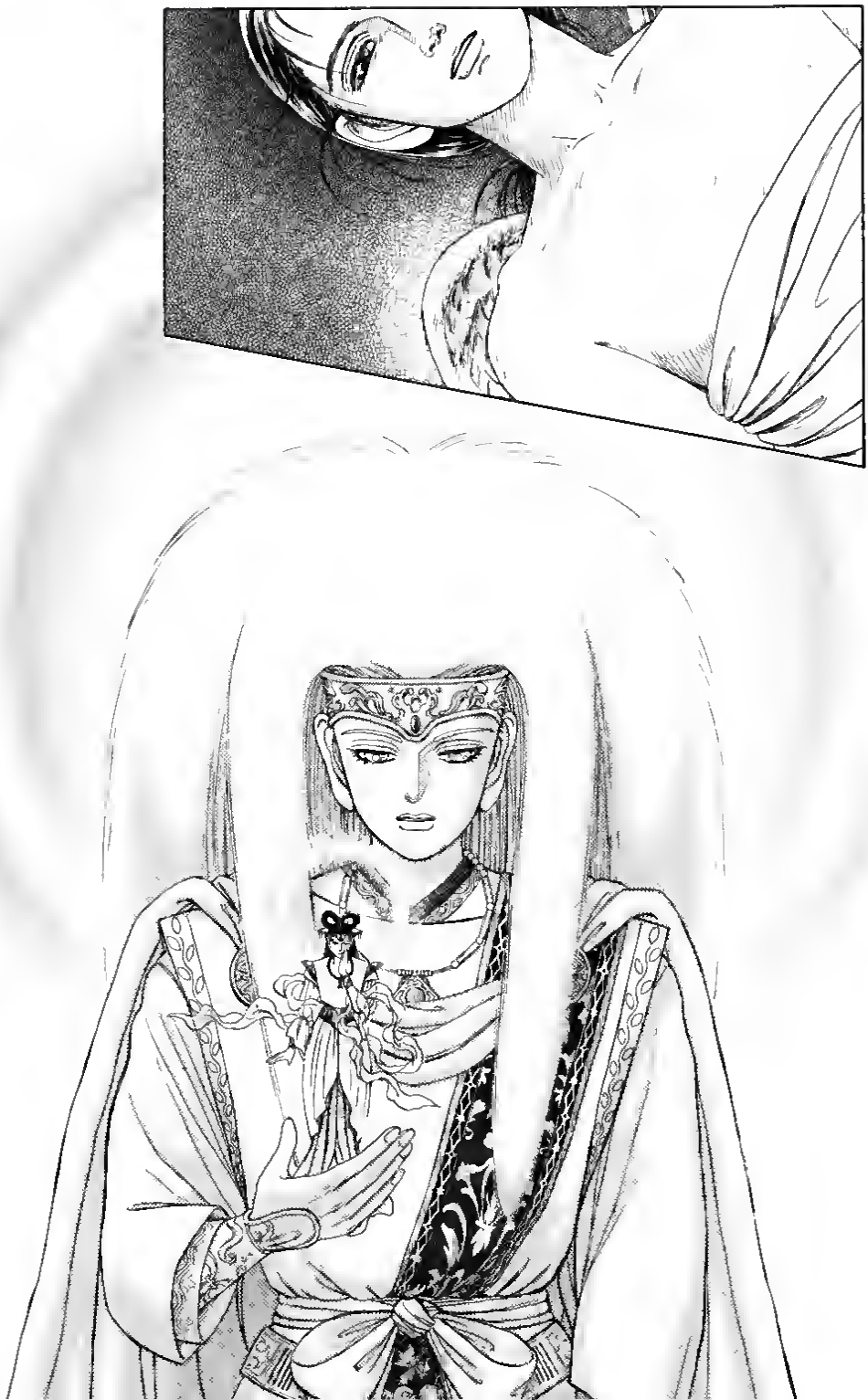
CRACKLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SNAP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SNAP
Think about how I... feel...
Idiot ...
POP
CRAK
RUMBLE

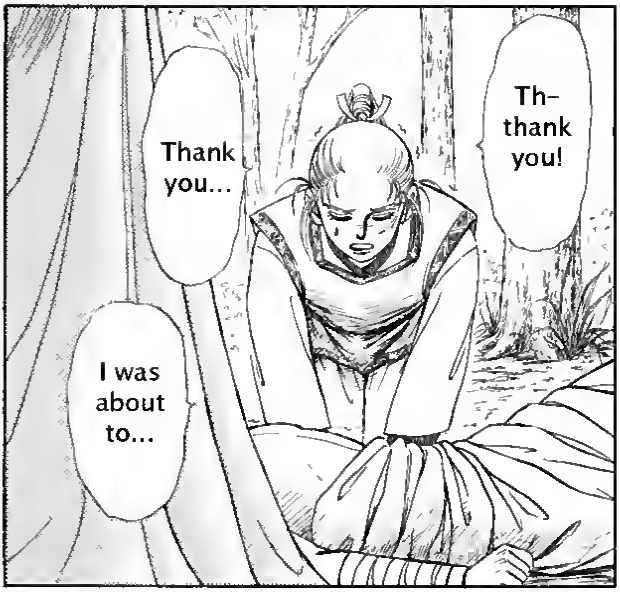
RIP
RIP
SNAP
Poor... trees...
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
RUMBLE RUMBLE
Fare-well!

Taka-
ya!

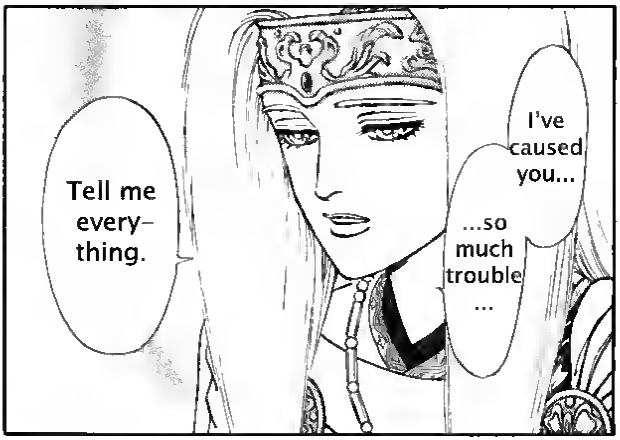
Lord
Risson!

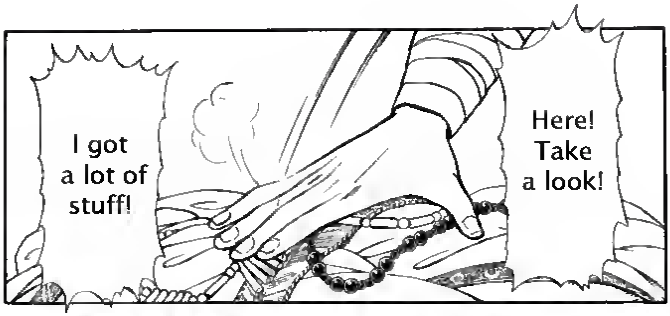





Th-
thank
you!
Thank
you...
I was
about
to...

Lord
Risson
...


I've
caused
you...
...so
much
trouble
...
Tell me
every-
thing.


I got a lot of stuff!
Here! Take a look!

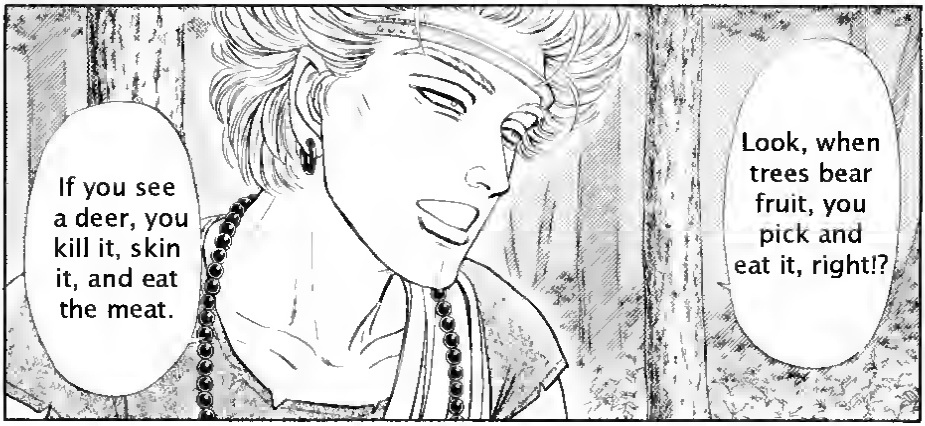
You can't see, can you...?
Oh... sorry.

Kyoji ...
Stealing is wrong.

I could give the bead necklaces to Yoko ...
There's clothes and bead neck-laces!
I grabbed the nicest ones from the loot the others brought back.

...
"Wrong"? What does that mean?
?
As are hurting and killing people, of course...
How would you feel if someone injured and killed you and stole your clothes?
I'd never let that happen!
Well, what if someone beat me, killed me, and stole my clothes?
Nobody could pull that off.
Right !?
HEHEHE-HOO-HE
...

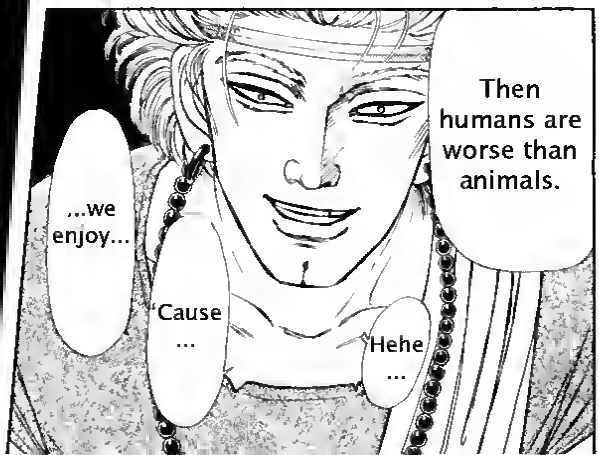
Kyoji is huge! His face is huge too!


If you see a deer, you kill it, skin it, and eat the meat.
Look, when trees bear fruit, you pick and eat it, right!?

Right!?
Except for the eating part.
It's the same thing with people ...

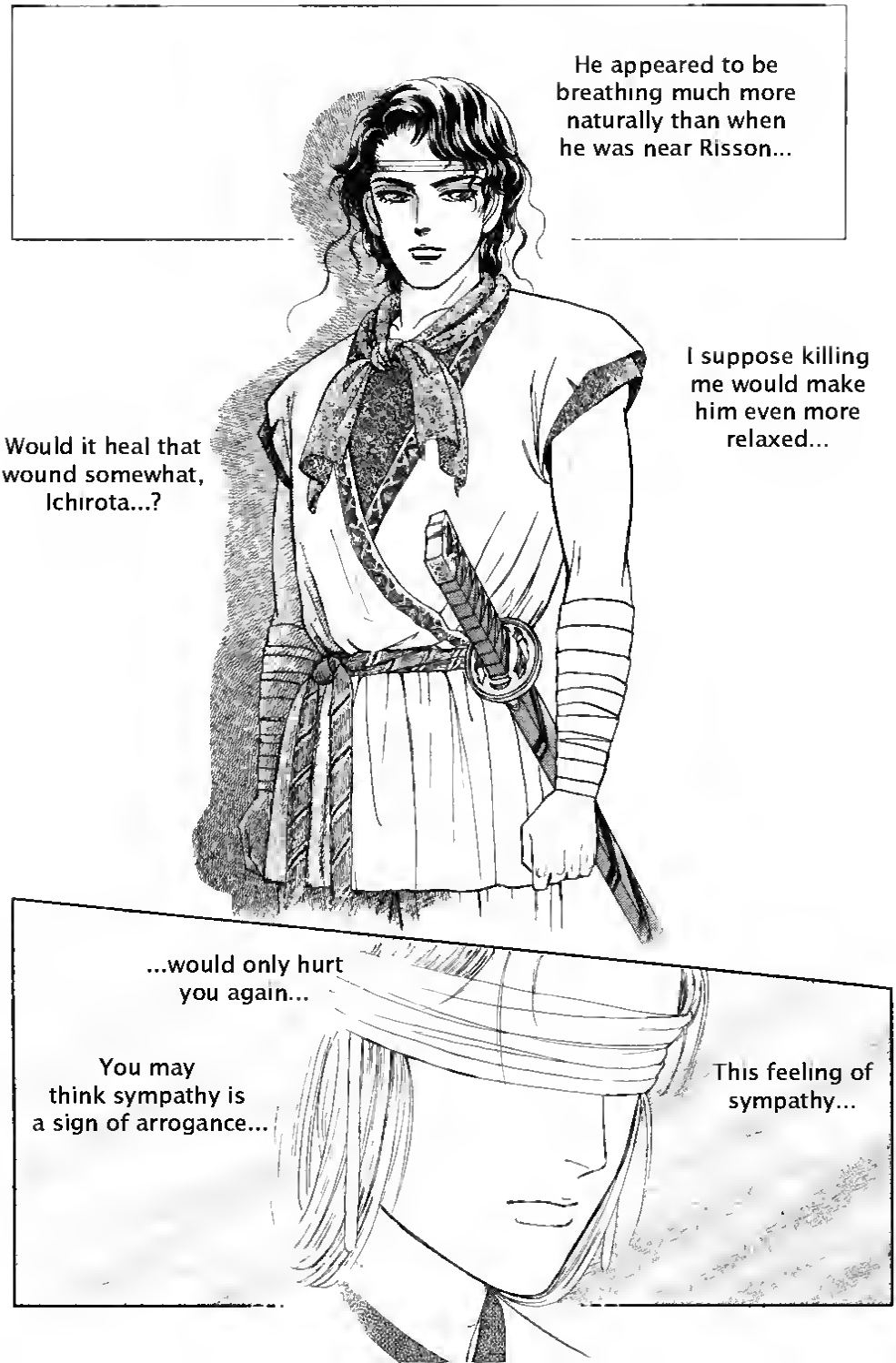
... stealing and killing ...

Animals never kill those of their own kind.
But Kyoji...


Then humans are worse than animals.
...we enjoy...
'Cause ...
Hehe ...

People...
...are not only drawn to good...
They are also drawn to evil...
...has been put in Nachi's hands.
Your life...
Enough about that...
He was your friend, right!? Why does he want to kill you?
You're safe as long as you're with me...

With a sword that cannot be seen...
Hurt that master swords-man?
You?
I...
...have hurt him for a long time...
Ichirota...
...I've wounded his heart that... cannot be seen...
...aside from that incident...
... seemed so much more relaxed ...
Ichirota...
Good grief!
I know you're a follower of the gods that cannot be seen, but stop saying such confusing things.


He appeared to be breathing much more naturally than when he was near Risson...
I suppose killing me would make him even more relaxed...
Would it heal that wound somewhat, Ichirota...?
...would only hurt you again...
You may think sympathy is a sign of arrogance...
This feeling of sympathy...

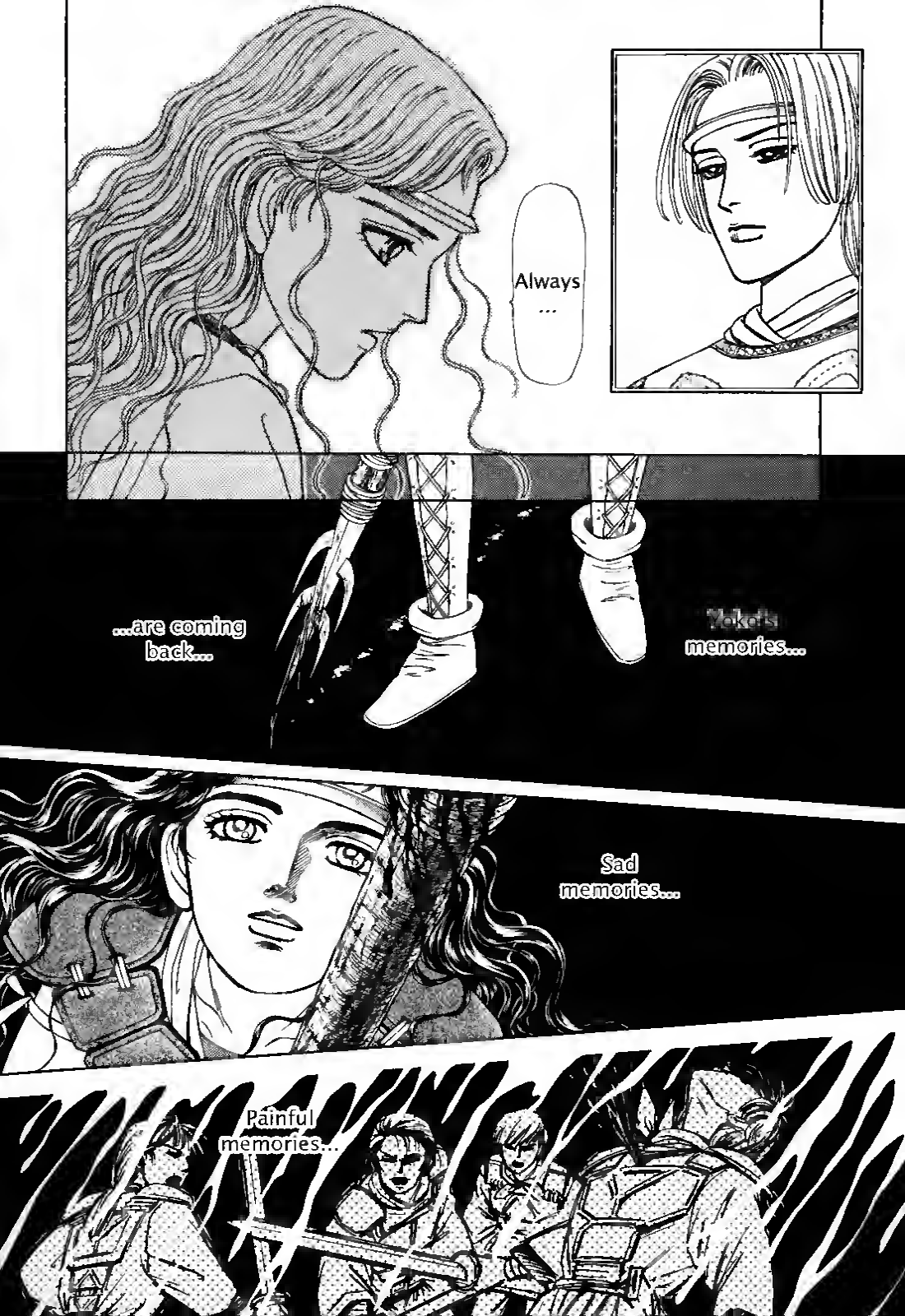
Sometimes, I can't distinguish between myself and others...
...but that's not the case.
He hates me because he knows it...
No, no... Ichirota knows even that...
I keep hurting [illegible] simply by virtue of my existence...
Hey... What's wrong?
Hey!

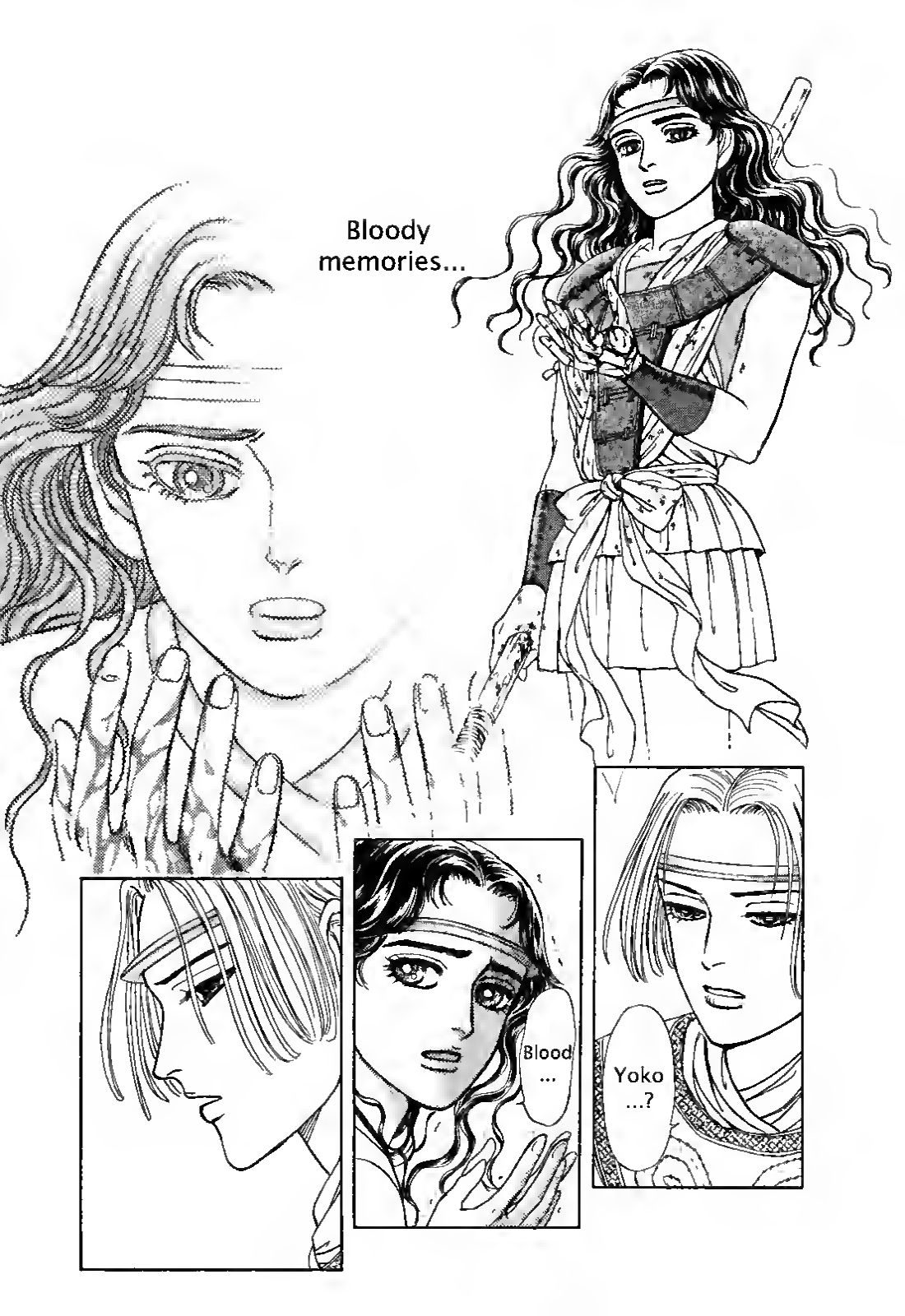
TREMBLE
Okay!?
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
I thought you m-might be crying ...
Don't worry about Nachi.
I said I'd protect you, remember?
どかん
BOOM
He looked at my face and smiled!
Aohiko smiled!
Yikes ...
CHUCKLE
Uh... Sor...
Sorry. I have a scary face...

It's probably a little big, but it's better than being cold.
Hibiki...
Did the girl who was wearing this... die?

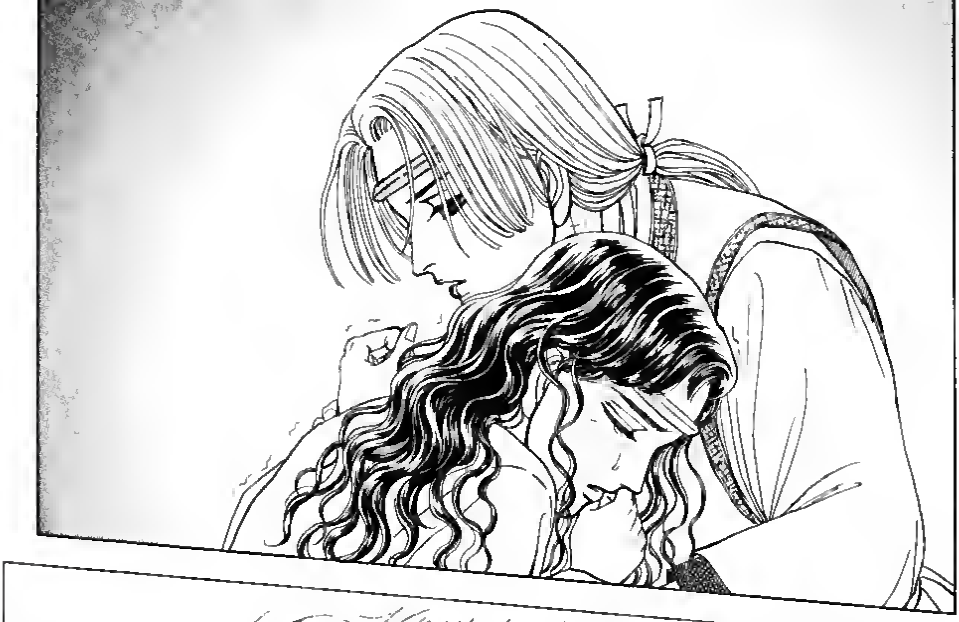
I got it from the loot.
I sup-pose.
FLOP
I can't wear this!
Just wash it off.
Don't act spoiled.
There's ... blood on it.

I don't need it!
I've never seen you act like such a spoiled brat before.
Are you really Yoko?
Yoko...
Deep down, I've always hated this!

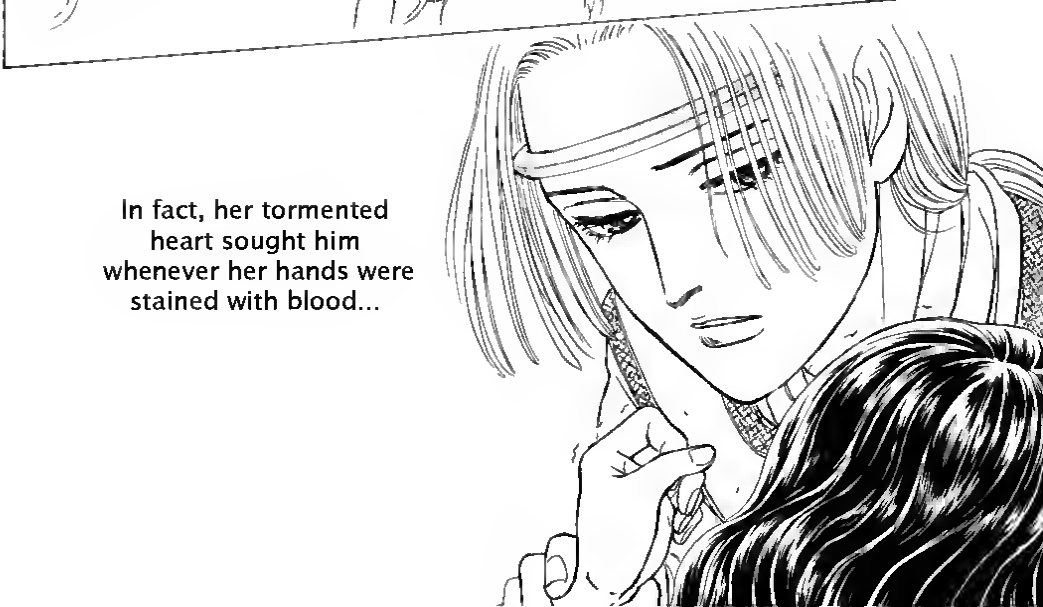

Always
...
...are coming back...
Yoko's memories...
Sad memories...
Painful memories...

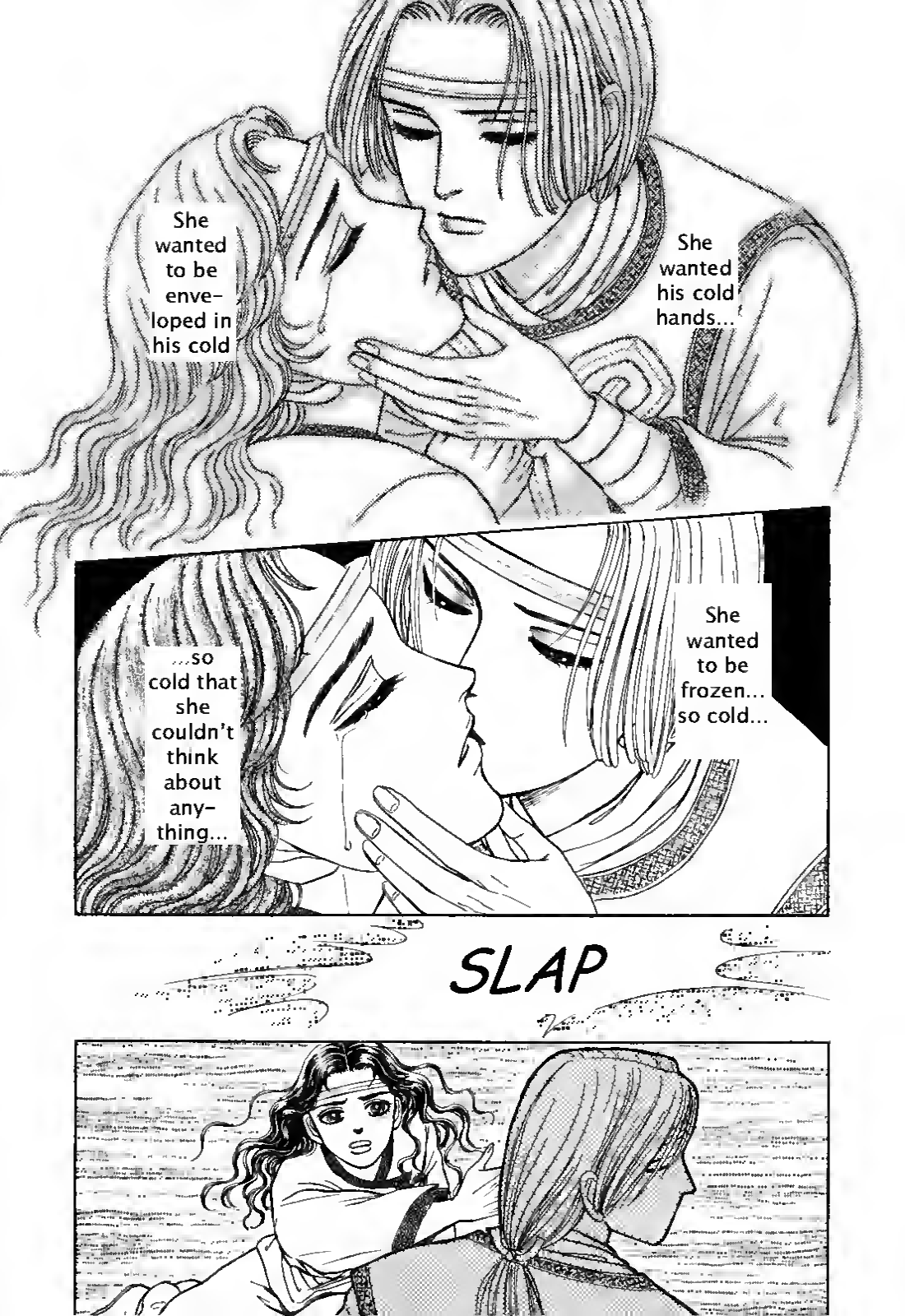

Bloody memories...
Blood ...
Yoko ...?

There's no blood!
No...
Ah... ah...
No-oo!
No!
Ah...
Ah...



...didn't dislike Hibiki's cold heart...
Yoko...

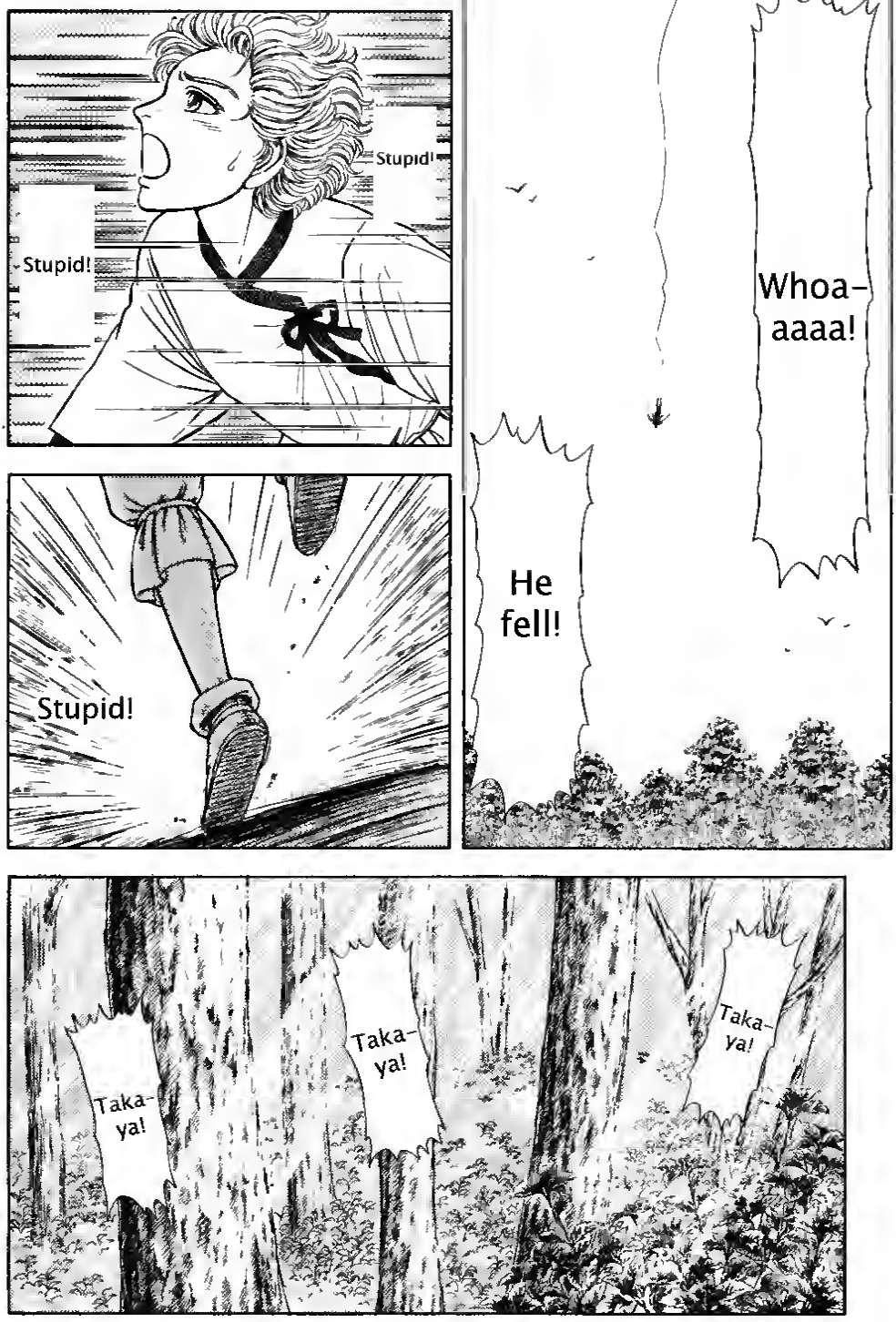

In fact, her tormented heart sought him whenever her hands were stained with blood...


She wanted to be enve-loped in his cold
She wanted his cold hands...
...so cold that she couldn't think about any-thing...
She wanted to be frozen... so cold...
SLAP

I'm sorry, Yoko. I'll wear it.
I'll fully face...
...your memories.
Y-you ever try something like that again and I'll kill you!
That's more like it.
That's my Yoko...
FLOP
Stop acting spoiled and wear this!
I was spoiled... This is how Yoko lived...
...for me...

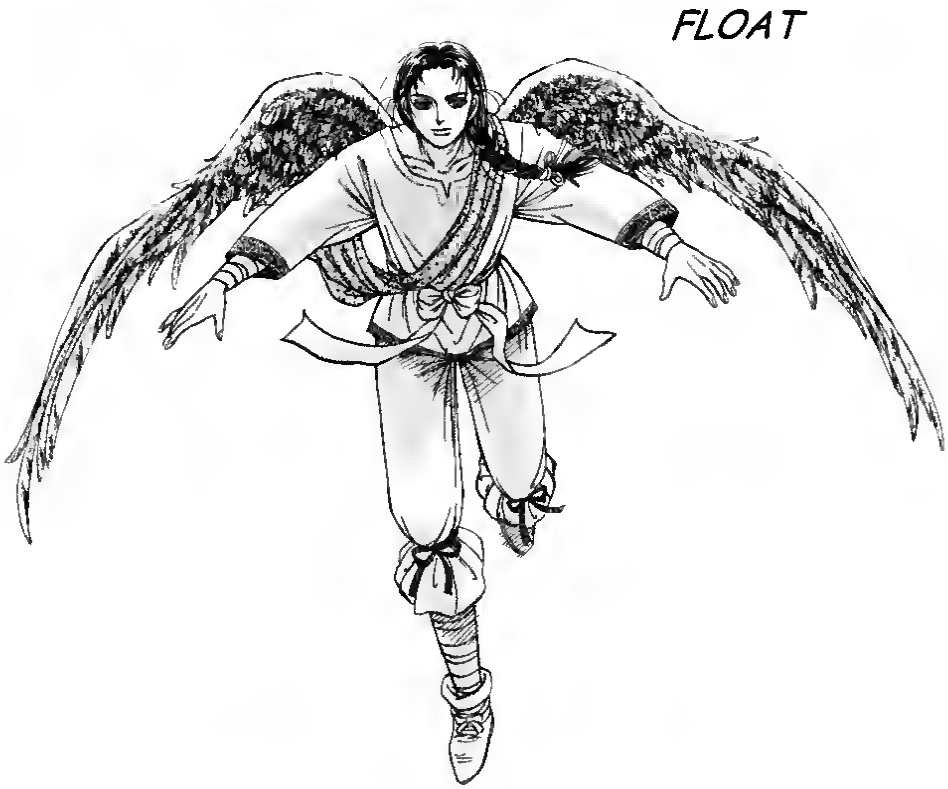
That show-off!
It's only been five days since he was able to get out of bed... Where's he gone!?
Don't tell me he flew away!
I wouldn't put it past him.
Tsk! All he does is give me ulcers.
You seem happy he can do that, Katsura!

Very funny.
I've been cursed to a life of worry.
Whoa!
You know, I haven't seen Kai either.
That little whiner has been following Takaya around for the last five days...
...on the sly!
Care-ful!
Idiot!
Flying that high on his first try...
If he falls ...

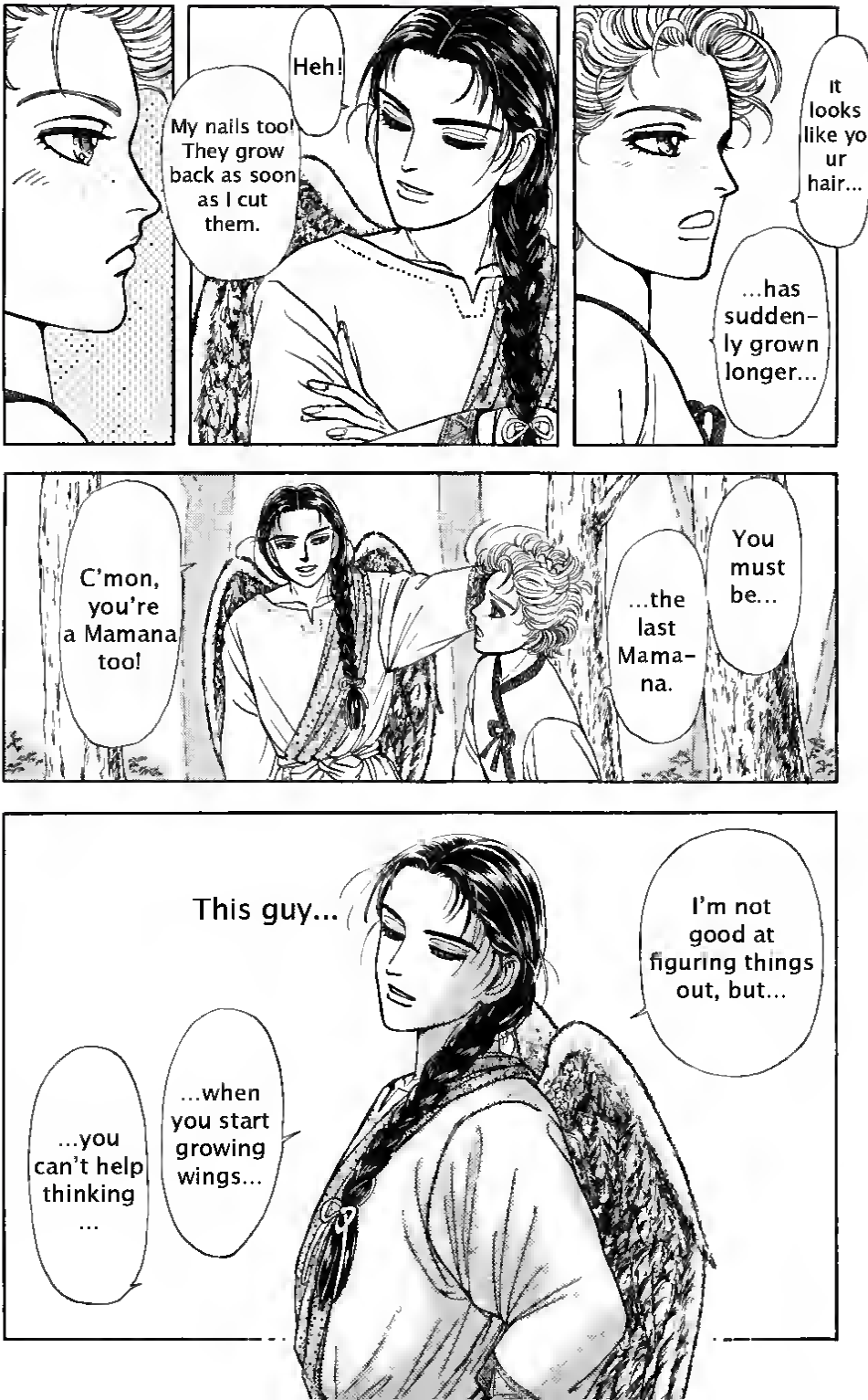

Stupid!
Stupid!
Whoa–
aaaa!
He
fell!
Stupid!
Taka-
ya!
Taka-
ya!
Taka-
ya!

Taka-
ya!
Taka-
ya!
Taka-
yaa!
WHISTLE♪

Your ears must be about as good as mine.
Aha...


FLOAT

I-I thought you fell...
Well I did, actually ...
It's faster that way.
Gets you right down to the ground ...
It's funny ...
I can fly as easily as if my wings came in when I was born...
They automatically pull me up right before I hit the ground so I don't even have to think about it.


Heh!
My nails too! They grow back as soon as I cut them.
It looks like your hair...
...has suddenly grown longer...
C'mon, you're a Mamana too!
You must be...
...the last Mamana.
This guy...
I'm not good at figuring things out, but...
...when you start growing wings...
...you can't help thinking ...

...about the Mamana...
...the great continents that were reduced to dust ...
...the gods... the war...
This guy...
Dammit!
Putting on airs and waving your sword around like a fool won't get you anywhere.
...is just so...
What are you scowling at!?
Everything...
...about him...

Haah!
...COOL!

ᐅ◎ᔑ⊣◎ᐊ
ᓭ⊣◎≈ᐊ◎ᑎ

What?
Hibiki!
We've been surrounded!?
RUSH

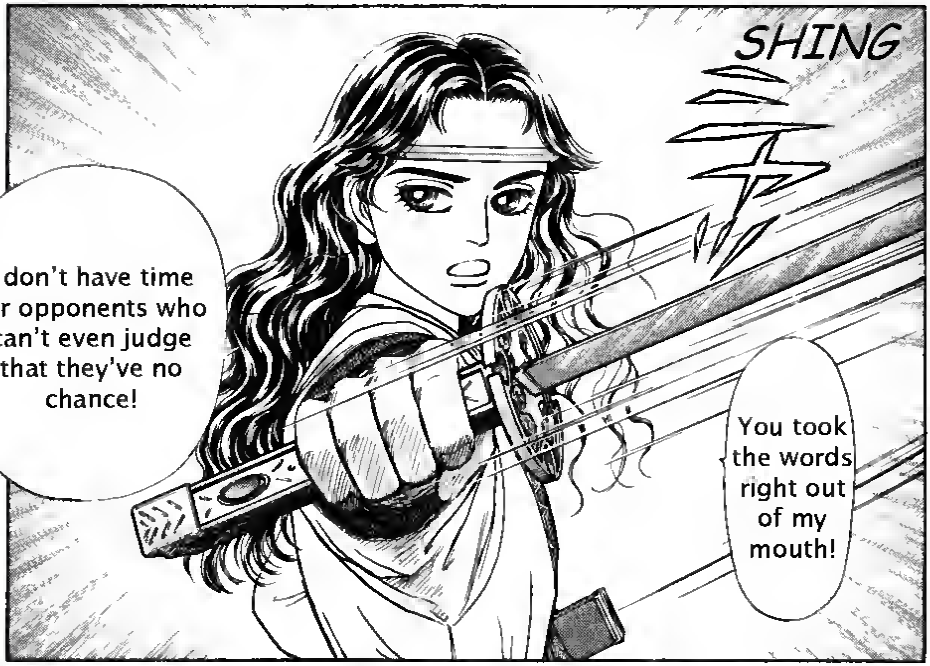
We followed a strange, inhuman sound here...
Seems there was more to it than we thought...
What do you want?
Just thieves.
Who are you!?

I want that cute girl.
You don't seem to have anything valuable, but we'll take those swords.
He heh
That's a laugh... asking thieves what they want!
Hehehe! He looks tasty.
But he's not my type.
I'll take him if you won't.
It'd be a shame to kill this fair-skinned guy. He's a hottie.
You probably don't even know what this demon headband is.
Fools!
You're out of your depth ...
GULP

This is a perfect opportunity to see if warriors with demon headbands are as strong as they say!
Don't lose your heads!
Oh ...
H-hey ...
Is that the...
Heheh ...
Give us a try.
I've been itching to kill someone.
DASH
Watch out for the big one!
Charge!

THUK
Stay next to me!
Aohi-ko!
I can manage with a dagger.
Here!
I can't just protect him bla-tantly
They're targeting Aohiko since he doesn't have a weapon!
Whhoa!
HYAH!
GAH!

I don't wanna hurt you.
It doesn't suit you.
Hand over your sword, cutie.


SHING
I don't have time for opponents who can't even judge that they've no chance!
You took the words right out of my mouth!

Dirty tricks work too.
...but winning isn't just about skill!
I admire your courage...

SLASH
AUGH!
YAAH
YAAH
WHOOSH—
WHOOSH
JERK
Aohi-ko!
This one's a gem too!
Hey Chief!

SLASH
Yoko!
To be continued...

Itihasa 6

Author
Wakako Mizuki

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